Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think DPS officers escorting AG Edward T. Buckingham and his wife to the airport was proper?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Before he strode into a Sikh temple with a 9mm handgun and multiple magazines of ammunition, Wade Michael Page played in white supremacist heavy metal bands with names such as Definite Hate and End Apathy. ➤ PAGE 14

ASIA

Torrential rains pounding the Philippine capital on Tuesday paralyzed traffic as waist-deep floods triggered evacuations of tens of thousands of residents and the government suspended work in offices and schools. ➤ PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

DreamWorks Animation and Chinese partners announced plans Tuesday to co-produce the next "Kung Fu Panda" movie and develop an entertainment district in Shanghai, expanding Hollywood's fast-growing ties to China. ➤ PAGE 20

PSS to open classes with only 410 teachers. PAGE 2
'No contract award without RFP on Tinian ship recycling.' PAGE 3

Fitial asked to suspend AG without pay

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday to suspend without pay Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham for the duration of the criminal complaints filed against him, but the administration said the governor has yet to review such letter because he was just returning from Tinian to attend a funeral when such request was sent to his office.

More questions arise on AG, DPS, CPA

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), on behalf of the Senate, also asked the governor to officially investigate the actions of Department of Public Safety and Commonwealth Ports Authority officers for alleged misuse of government resources to

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Manglona

'OPA *has authority to investigate, prosecute not only AG, but also governor*'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An attorney general being charged with criminal crimes is unheard of in the CNMI.

With the Office of Public Auditor's filing of criminal charges against AG Edward T. Buckingham, assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich characterized the case as novel. Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman elevated the characterization to bizarre.

A lot of people, particularly non-lawyers, are wondering what authority OPA has in investigating and prosecuting AG Buckingham.

Saipan Tribune yesterday learned about Public Law 3-91, 406. The law's Referrals: Criminal Action (b), states that "If the Public Auditor has reasonable grounds to believe the Governor or Attorney General has violated federal or

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, center, gestures as she speaks to Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), left, and Senate Education Committee chair and floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), right, after a Senate meeting with Public School System and Board of Education officials on PSS' proposed fiscal year 2013 budget yesterday afternoon. Education officials asked for a $30-million budget to meet the maintenance-of-efforts requirements but the Senate is still weighing the request as it works on the $114-million budget package less than two months before the start of FY 2013.

Senate panels weigh PSS' $33M budget request for FY 2013

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Education officials asked both the Senate Fiscal Affairs and Education Committees yesterday afternoon to consider giving the Public School System a $33-million budget for fiscal year 2013 to at least meet the maintenance-of-efforts requirement, but both panels are still weighing the request as they review the $114-million budget package.

Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said the administration made it clear that the $12 million projected increase in revenue in 2013 compared to 2012 was meant to restore 80 work hours biweekly and pump more into the medical referral program and Medicaid reimbursement.

But Taimanao said her committee is "doing its best" to "at least meet PSS halfway."

Education Commissioner Dr.

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Local

PSS to open classes with only 410 teachers

Schools staffing patterns show very high student ratio in all levels

COE to seek waiver on BOE policy

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The number of teachers working at the Public School System significantly declined this new school year after education officials disclosed that a high number of teaching personnel recently exited the system.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that approximately 54 teachers have left the system last school year due to retirement, resignation, and deployment to the military.

From 464 classroom teachers last year, Sablan revealed that PSS has only 410 teachers onboard to open classes next month. The commissioner described the present teachers' count as significantly lower than what PSS employed in previous school years, which usually was around 525 classroom teachers.

During yesterday Board of Education's fiscal and personnel affairs committee meeting, Sablan reported that PSS—due to budget constraints—is holding off the hiring of replacements for vacant positions including teachers, support staffers, and a legal counsel until a clear budget direction is received from the Legislature.

It was disclosed that most of those who exited PSS were teachers recruited from off-island who have decided to go back home as a result of the economic slowdown. Since their departure at the end of the school year, no replacements have been made for these positions.

For FY 2013, PSS was only allocated $29.5 million based on the House-approved budget bill. The commissioner said this amount is not even enough to cover PSS' personnel cost. Its other expenses are school operations and utilities for 19 campuses.

Sablan said that PSS needs at least $34 million in order to hire needed teaching positions for this new school year. She pointed out that without any increase in the House-approved budget for PSS, it would be difficult to bring additional personnel.

Sablan, along with members of her leadership team, appealed to Senate members yesterday to increase the funding for schools.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, along with members of her leadership team, listen during a discussion about the PSS budget situation at yesterday's fiscal and personnel affairs committee meeting at the Board of Education conference room. From left are Commissioner Sablan, financial consultant Ed Tenorio, federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, and FPA chair Tanya King.

The commissioner disclosed that due to the limited number of teachers, class ratio at all levels is anticipated to go up—way beyond what the education board policy has set.

Sablan reported to the committee yesterday that based on the staffing pattern submitted by public schools, most schools will see a class ratio between 30 and 38 in various grade levels. Ideal class ratio for elementary is 20 students per teacher, while 25 students per class is the ideal for the secondary level.

Because of the "high" increase in the student-to-teacher ratio this year, the commissioner said PSS will seek a waiver for the BOE policy. The system is anticipating 11,000 students each year or more versus 400 teachers onboard.

"I know we talked about safe schools and orderly campus, classroom management, and organization. But when you have more than 30 students in the classroom, it would be very difficult because they [teachers] not only teach but they also take time to nurture these kids. So it's about our social welfare, mental health welfare, and academics," explained Sablan.

She said she is worried what impact the higher student-to-teacher ratio would bring to overall student learning. Sablan, however, is hopeful that the Legislature will give attention to the education of children by at least providing PSS the personnel it needs.

ACCORDING TO USDOE, NMI AUDIT REPORT:

Central govt owes PSS $11.8M *in unremitted maintenance-of-effort*

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The central government owes the Public School System $11.8 in unremitted maintenance-of-effort, a requirement under the state fiscal stabilization fund from the federal government, according to PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh.

The maintenance of effort requirement mandates that a certain percentage of the government budget be allocated to education as required by U.S. Department of Education when it provided the CNMI $34.2 million SFSF two years ago.

For two years, there was disagreement on its calculation but Thornburgh, during yesterday's fiscal and personnel affairs committee meeting of the State Board of Education, said the new figure is based on calculations made by USDOE and after a review of the CNMI audit report for fiscal year 2009.

"That's the calculation that USDOE came up with after they reviewed the 2009 CNMI audit report, revenues received, and the amount invested in public education," said Thornburgh.

Based on USDOE calculation, PSS should have received 25.28 percent of the CNMI budget as part of the MOE requirement for state fiscal stabilization fund.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, right, explains to members of the Board of Education Fiscal and Personnel Affairs Committee the final maintenance-of-effort percentage that the Public School System must receive from the central government, while financial consultant Ed Tenorio looks on.

The unpaid MOE covered fiscal years 2010 and 2011. It was two years ago when PSS was awarded $32.4 million total SFSF money which was authorized for expenditure until Sept. 30, 2011.

Thornburgh described FY 2012 as an "interesting year" for PSS because the CNMI budget was set at $102 million and it only provided $29 million to PSS.

With a projected CNMI budget of $114 million for FY 2013, MOE mandates that PSS should be given a share of 28.9 percent, or at least $33 million. He said PSS now has a good argument to claim these unremitted amounts from the central government.

"So basically, we were owed a substantial amount of money and that's one of the areas Christine Jackson wants to talk about in her visit," reported Thornburgh, adding that USDOE execs will also focus on the closing out of SFSF projects of PSS.

Christine Jackson is the senior risk management consultant of U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and she is expected to visit PSS on Aug. 17 along with Mark Robinson.

PSS earlier said it is projected to incur a shortfall of $7 million at the end of the fiscal year and is banking on these unremitted MOE from the central government to address the anticipated deficit. Projected deficit for personnel cost is $3.8 million, while for all others is $3.2 million.

Meantime, PSS acting finance director George Palican reported to the committee yesterday that to fulfill the system's obligation to its vendors, a meeting is being set up with the finance secretary to discuss the local budget and the unremitted MOE for PSS.

In the upcoming visit of USDOE officials, board member Herman T. Guerrero recommended that PSS seek an audience with the Legislature so they could also hear what the USDOE has to say about the MOE.

FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

US probation officer supports mayor staff's request to travel to PH

The U.S. Probation Office yesterday asked the federal court to allow a staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office who is on probation to travel to the Philippines for a scheduled surgery of his injuries from a fall.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola said he supports Lawrence M. Fleming's request to travel due to his need for emergency medical treatment.

Arriola said that, on July 24, 2012, Fleming's wife reported to the U.S. Probation Office and informed him that her husband had been injured in a work-related accident and had been admitted at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Arriola said the wife submitted a referral note prepared by a doctor who indicated that Fleming had injured his spine and was in need of medical treatment.

Fleming is currently scheduled for surgery at the Asian Hospital in the Philippines on Friday, Aug. 10.

The wife submitted an off-island medical referral certification indicating that the Medical Referral Committee approved his travel to the Philippines.

Last July 19, Fleming was cutting branches of pine trees on Capital Hill on a bucket truck when the truck's arm suddenly broke, plunging him 60 to 70 feet to the edge of a rooftop of a one-story government building.

Arriola said that, in January 2003, the District Court sentenced Fleming to 88 months in prison for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine or "ice."

The court placed the defendant on supervised release for four years that commenced on March 13, 2009.

Arriola said Fleming had been marginally compliant with his court-ordered conditions.

Arriola said Fleming was arrested on April 17, 2012 for driving while under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, and other traffic violations.

The probation officer said due to Fleming's medical condition, he was unable to appear in court as ordered and the traffic case was continued to Sept. 13, 2012. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'No contract award without RFP on Tinian ship recycling'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he supports the development of a ship recycling facility on Tinian but a request for proposal will be issued for any contract award.

Fitial was responding to a question whether the contract will be awarded to First International Corp., which has been in discussion with the CNMI government on the Tinian ship recycling project for quite some time.

"We have to follow procurement regulations," the governor said.

Fitial said the RFP will be issued as soon as his special legal counsel Jim Stump comes back from Brownsville, Texas where he said "most of the noncommissioned vessels are located."

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and other Tinian officials are still seeking more information about the administration's plan at this time.

FIC began working on this ship recycling project in 2010, visiting Guam and then Saipan and Tinian in 2011.

In July, Paul Slater, chairman and chief executive officer of FIC, wrote to CNMI officials, expressing his disappointment and surprise with the recent turn of events, especially when representations were made that the CNMI government didn't understand the memorandum of understanding that parties have talked about for a long time.

The governor, at the same time, said he got the support of U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Az) to the CNMI's proposal to allow the islands

"The good news is that he's willing to help us… push the amendment that would allow the CNMI to also repair military vessels," Fitial said, adding that McCain is a "very strong members of the Armed Services Committee."

This comes three months after the U.S. House of Representatives passed a fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act without Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 4338 that would include the CNMI as a location where military vessels may be repaired or overhauled.

The governor does not expect any measure on the shipyard proposal to move very quickly because of the national elections.

"You got to remember, this is an election year so there's nothing going to happen between now and Nov. 6. After Nov. 6, U.S. Congress will be a lame duck," he said.

Democratic Party fields Jesse Torres for House seat

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Julita Villagomez, left, receives from Democratic Party candidate Jesse Torres, right, the petition for his candidacy for the Nov. 6 mid-term elections. Torres is the only candidate fielded by the party and he will run for a House seat in precinct 5. Also in photo are, from right, Democratic Party chair Atty. Edward Manibusan, vice chair Jesse Borja, and family and supporters of the candidate.

The central executive committee of the Democratic Party of the CNMI has certified the candidacy of Jesse David Torres to represent the party in House precinct 5.

With his family and supporters, the Democrat's lone candidate this mid-term elections filed his petition at the Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday with the promise that he would help "rebuild" the Commonwealth.

Torres holds a masters degree in marketing and human resource management from California State University. He obtained his bachelor of science degree in business administration from Portland State University.

Torres also holds an associate degree in business management from the Northern Marianas College. Torres is the son of Juan Taitingfong Torres and Maria Jones Torres.

Torres lost when he ran for the same post in the 2009 elections. He said Kagman residents are the reason why he is again running for office. He is convinced that with his educational and professional background, he will be an asset to the Legislature and the CNMI people.

Torres manages his family's real estate business and worked as manager for an insurance company. He was also a former employee of the Kagman postal service and an instructor at the college. For some years, he also led the Kagman Community Association as its president.

"A lot of people have asked me to run again because based on the last election, I came close and almost won the position. People say they need my help…and I just feel that I have the knowledge that it takes to help create effective legislation for the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he is giving Kagman voters a new "option" this coming election.

When asked about specific projects he wants to pursue for Kagman, Torres cited the need to revive the Kagman youth center, to resume the police visibility in the Kagman areas, to improve village roads, and develop infrastructure that will help create jobs, among others.

"I want to provide our people a choice. If people are still happy with them [incumbents], I respect their decision. If they want an option, I am asking them to please vote for me," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

In a statement provided yesterday, Torres believes that the Democratic Party is the only party that truly represents the people. If elected, he said he will devote his time, effort, and energy in bringing solutions to the islands' problems. He said the party has a set of visions and goals which he believes will rebuild the CNMI.

Among Torres' supporters yesterday were Democratic Party chair Atty. Edward Manibusan and vice chair Jesse Borja.

Democratic Party condemns police action

Meantime, the Democratic Party issued a statement yesterday condemning the actions taken by some police officers and ports police officers in assisting Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham in leaving the CNMI last Saturday morning.

"The Democratic Party of the CNMI will not tolerate such activities of our law enforcement, backed by the Executive Branch. The people and personnel involved in assisting a defendant [Buckingham] evade justice should be investigated and immediately removed from public office," the party's statement indicated.

It added that the "Republican and Covenant administration have allowed too many lawless acts to be committed against our people. It is time to rise and say no more."

Miah asks court to sentence him now in driver's license scam case

Mohammad Jahangir Miah has asked the federal court to proceed with his sentencing in connection with his conviction in the driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety.

Miah, through counsel Colin Thompson, requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the U.S. government's motion to declare him in breach of plea agreement.

Miah on Monday filed his opposition to the U.S. government's motion to declare him in breach of plea agreement. He also filed a motion to continue his sentencing hearing.

According to Thompson, Miah was acquitted at trial of the offense(s) for which the government seeks to prove as the basis for finding him in breach of the plea agreement.

"As a consequence of a finding of breach, the government desires to void its obligations concerning the dismissal of criminal counts and imposition of punishment. The Double Jeopardy Clause prohibits the government's intended actions," Thompson said.

In August 2011, Miah pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to unlawfully produce and transfer identification documents. His original sentencing date was Nov. 15, 2011.

The defendant's sentencing was postponed several times for various reasons, including his indictment in a case of conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks. Miah's charges in that case were subsequently dismissed. His co-defendant Earl Eric Mirano was found guilty.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe filed in March 2012 a motion asking the federal court to declare Miah in breach of the plea agreement.

Backe argued that the plea agreement expressly stated that, should defendant "engage in criminal conduct after the entry of his plea agreement and before sentencing," the government would then be "free from its obligations under the agreement." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- MARGARITA CASTRO CRUZ and ERNEST PATRICK RANGAMAR CRUZ, Defendants.] CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0111

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 27, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 254, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 943 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/ Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 05 dated October 12, 1983, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-1364, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 10, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

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/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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AS NO ACTION ON BILL IN SIGHT DURING ELECTION YEAR

Worker groups to ask DHS parole extension for those covered in HR 1466

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed said yesterday that worker groups will be jointly asking Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to extend the parole "beyond" Dec. 31, 2012 to the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain "stateless" individuals covered in H.R. 1466.

HR 1466 seeks a grant of CNMI-only resident status for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008 and continuing to be on the islands, CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and spouses, parents, or children of U.S. citizens under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Syed said Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) HR 1466 would have difficulty moving in U.S. Congress before the end of 2012 because of the November national election and the January inauguration, so it would make sense to "automatically extend the humanitarian parole granted to those covered in HR 1466."

"We are now preparing a letter addressed to DHS Secretary Napolitano to ask for the automatic extension of humanitarian parole. There's also no initiative taken by U.S. Congress to grant improved status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI as recommended by the Interior

Syed

in 2010," Syed told *Saipan Tribune.*

During Thanksgiving 2011, DHS's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that it will consider granting, on a case-by-case basis, parole until Dec. 31, 2012, those covered in HR 1466.

This parole allows individuals who are lawfully present in the CNMI as of Nov. 27, 2011, to maintain legal status in the CNMI beyond that date.

The Fitial administration opposed HR 1466 and the granting of such humanitarian parole for those covered in the bill. The administration had said "the cost of allowing all these unemployed [and unemployable] foreigners to remain in a very small economy like the CNMI is very high. This could give rise to a larger underground economy and cause more legitimate businesses to close."

At the same time, United Workers Movement-NMI, Dekada Movement and MAHAL are opposed to the extension of the transitional worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014. The worker groups are asking instead for a grant of improved status to long-term legal aliens before the end of 2014.

Tan Holdings to hold 'CNMI Musical Festival'

Besides generous donations and launching of worthwhile projects for the Commonwealth, Tan Holdings will offer a free concert for the public as part of the company's celebration of its 40th anniversary in doing business in the region.

Dubbed as the "CNMI Musical Festival," the event will feature talents of local musicians and artists, according to corporate affairs manager and Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola Jr.

Arriola said they are looking to sign up solo artists and bands who wish to perform for the festival, slated for Labor Day next month. Interested talents may contact Arriola at ed_arriola@tanholdings.com or call Rebecca Tenorio at 287-4578 for more information.

The music festival is open to the community, free of charge tentatively set at Susupe Beach Park. This event will be taped and broadcasted locally on a later date.

To encourage more families, the event will also hold food stations for attendees, according to Arriola.

This year, Tan Holdings is celebrating 40 years of doing business in Micronesia and 30 years in the CNMI. In a recent celebration on island, the company assured its continued commitment to help build the economy, generate jobs, develop, and sustain social and environmental initiatives in the CNMI, which it called its second home.

Coinciding with this celebration is the awarding of numerous donations to public schools, and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to further enhance the students' learning. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Erratum

On the article "E Land acquires Palms Resort in $20M asset sale," that came out on Aug. 7, UMDA chair Jose Lifoifoi clarified that Palms Resort's new management plans to revitalize and renovate only Palms Resort Saipan at this time and will not include Pacific Islands Club Saipan as reported. Our apologies.

FITIAL

From Page 1

prevent the serving of summons to the AG.

The officers involved included DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, the governor's personal security/driver Police Capt. Jermaine W. Nekaifes, and CPA Ports Police Chief Jordan Kosam.

Manglona said they were armed and uniformed while they guarded the Buckinghams in the airport VIP lounge. He said these actions—at a minimum—suggest that the law enforcement officers had the appearance and effect, intended or not, of misusing government resources.

"Please investigate and explain why taxpayer resources are being used to carry the bags of the attorney general and his spouse? Why was there a need to guard them at a secured venue such as the airport? If there was a legitimate threat to his safety, why was the media the only party that was prevented from approaching the attorney general and filming his departure?"

He asked the governor to look into the matter "expeditiously and take whatever steps are reasonable and prudent."

"With all due respect, please provide an explanation for the record to ensure that you are taking this matter seriously," Manglona told Fitial.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said "the governor has yet to review the letter as he was making his way back from attending the funeral in Tinian."

Officials were on Tinian for yesterday afternoon's funeral of the late U.S. Army Specialist Hanson Mendiola.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said "Buckingham does not deserve police escort to the airport. This was a waste of taxpayers' money."

"My question is, who authorized this escort service? We really don't have to look far for an answer. It was the order of the governor. I don't for a minute believe that deputy commissioner Ogumoro concocted this plan by himself. I challenge the chairs of the Senate EAGI Committee and House JGO Committee to initiate an oversight on this matter for DPS as well as CPA police," Dela Cruz said.

It's because of doubts like this on the governor's possible involvement that the Senate is also seeking an independent investigation.

Besides seeking the governor's investigation, Manglona also asked for an independent probe by its Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations headed by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Cruz, in an interview, said his committee will meet soon to decide on the investigation request related to the use of government resources in what appears to be an obstruction of justice.

He said he will bring up the possibility of conducting an oversight hearing on DPS and CPA as well as other parties involved in "escorting" Buckingham and his wife from their residence to the airport using armed and on-duty officers and government vehicles.

'Back off Legislature'

But Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said the matter is "now in the hands of the Judiciary" so the Legislature should "back off."

"Let the court decide on this," he said. "It's all about vengeance and revenge on the part of the Office of the Public Auditor against Buckingham."

Torres said OPA had sufficient time to prepare its complaint but waited for the last minute to file the complaint.

He also said the Legislature missed its opportunity to do something, citing the fact that OPA and a federal agency had long issued reports on the AG's involvement in a delegate candidate gathering and award of a sole-source ARRA management contract yet lawmakers didn't do anything.

"Maybe we could have impeached somebody but it's too late for that now. The court has taken over so let the court decide on this," said Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said while he supports the Senate's request for an investigation, "it seems it's going to be a dead end."

'Is he still AG?'

The Senate asked for Buckingham's suspension as attorney general in light of at least seven counts of criminal charges against him, a bench warrant for his arrest, a $50,000 cash bail and to prevent the use of taxpayer dollars for the AG's criminal defense.

Manglona, at the same time, raised questions as to whether Buckingham is still the CNMI attorney general—after resigning and then withdrawing his notice of resignation a day after he was served the summons—because he may now be subject to the nomination process and subject to Senate confirmation.

"The people of the Commonwealth have a right to a safe environment. Together we must restore confidence in the justice system of the Commonwealth. Accordingly, your immediate attention to these matters is not just appreciated, it is essential, critical, and urgently needed," Manglona told Fitial.

Fitial told reporters on Monday that Buckingham remains as the CNMI attorney general. Fitial accepted Buckingham's decision to withdraw his notice of resignation.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) said if there's a committee that's supposed to do an investigation into the alleged improper use of public resources, among other things, it should be the House JGO.

But he said any investigation should be jointly undertaken by the House and Senate instead of having only one house doing it.

Manglona also said he anticipates that Buckingham may seek to use CNMI funds to pay for his criminal defense.

"While I understand that he may legally be able to avail of taxpayer resources for maters that transpired while he was the attorney general, I wish to state for the record that in the event that Mr. Buckingham is not acquitted on every single count of every single criminal charge, all sums used for his defense should be reimbursed to the Commonwealth," he said.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued on Monday a bench warrant for Buckingham's arrest for not appearing in court despite penal summons served on him by an FBI special agent.

Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham. He determined that the AG flagrantly disregarded the court's lawful penal summons.

OPA also filed amended information adding two more charges against Buckingham. The new charges—obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and misconduct in public office—were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Friday and Saturday.

OPA

From Page 1

Commonwealth criminal law, the Public Auditor may use the legal counsel for the office of the Public Auditor or retain special counsel who shall serve as an assistant attorney general for purposes of investigating and prosecuting, if necessary, the criminal law violations."

Asked about P.L. 3-91, OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback said the law speaks for itself.

"It authorizes OPA to investigate and potentially prosecute any law violations by the Governor or the Attorney General," said Hasselback.

"That's what the law says and that's what we are operating under," Hasselback added.

It was Hasselback who filed seven misdemeanor charges against Buckingham.

Five charges were in connection with Buckingham's alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's party at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's house in August 2010 and the AG's approval of a $400,000 sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act management contract in October 2010 to Michael Ada within days of the latter stepping down as a Cabinet secretary.

Two charges were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with the Superior Court's penal summons between Friday and Saturday.

Wiseman on Monday issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Buckingham for not appearing in court despite penal summons served on him by an FBI special agent. The judge imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham.

SENATE

From Page 1

Rita Sablan said the Board of Education-approved PSS budget for 2013 was $40 million but the governor's submission reflected only $29.5 million and the House further cut it to $28 million.

Sablan said the MOE requires that the PSS budget should be at least 28.92 percent of the government's budget so a $114-million government budget should have at least $32.968 million or $33 million budget for PSS. Sablan also spoke of consequences such as the CNMI being placed on "risk status" and possible reduction in federal education grants if the CNMI fails to meet MOE requirements.

Taimanao said based on the Fiscal Affairs Committee's review, PSS' budget could go back to $30 million, if one is to include the Commonwealth Workers' Fee and Compact impact funds.

But she said PSS pointed out that the MOE computation includes only general fund revenue and not outside sources such as Compact Impact fund and CW fees.

Taimanao said the committee is not making any commitment yet to give the agency more but she said the committee is doing its best to at least give PSS $30 million.

The Senate is not expected to act on the FY 2013 budget bill in today's session because the Fiscal Affairs Committee has yet to wrap up its budget meetings with some agencies. Taimanao added that her committee would like to report out simultaneously the budget bill and two administration-sponsored NMI Retirement Fund-Social Security bills. The House, however, has yet to pass the second of such bill.

If there is no budget law before the start of the new fiscal year, the government will have to temporarily shut down until a budget bill is passed and signed.

Inos finds as sufficient charges vs ex-CUC board chair

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos has found as sufficient the charges filed by the Office of the Attorney General against former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero who is facing allegations that he molested a 16-year-old girl.

In denying Guerrero's motion for a bill of particulars, Inos ruled that the OAG satisfied its burden in the information regarding the time of the offenses because the victim is a child, the alleged crimes took place over a 24-month period, the statute of limitations has not run, and time is not a material element to the crimes.

A bill of particulars refers to a written statement that is submitted in court either by a plaintiff or a prosecutor at the defendant's request, providing the defendant detailed information concerning the claims or charges made against him or her.

Inos determined that the government satisfied its burden in the information because the information identified the victim, contained the statutes allegedly violated, the approximate time and location of the incidents, and the actions constituting the crimes.

"Furthermore, full discovery will ameliorate any problems arising from factual gaps contained in the information," said Inos in his order issued on Thursday.

A police detective stated in his report that according to the girl, Guerrero first sexually abused her when she was in ninth grade and that five other incidents happened after that.

The detective said the latest sexual abuse allegedly happened on May 25, 2012.

In June 2012, the OAG filed an information charging the 62-year-old Guerrero with 15 crimes: two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree; one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree; three counts of assault and battery; two counts of indecent exposure in the first degree; two counts of indecent exposure in second degree; and five counts of disturbing the peace.

Guerrero is released on bail.

On July 9, 2012, Guerrero, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, pleaded not guilty. He also filed a motion for a bill of particulars.

Nicholas argued that the information fails to allege with sufficient specificity the time of the acts supporting the criminal offenses in counts 1 through 8.

Nicholas also contended that the information fails to allege with specificity the particular acts supporting the 10 counts.

Inos said a bill of particulars is granted when an information is either too vague or indefinite to prepare an adequate defense.

Citing precedent cases, the judge said in cases involving sexual abuse of children, an information need not allege time with specificity.

Inos said Guerrero stands accused of multiple criminal acts against a minor child.

Inos said the information indicates that each alleged crime occurred within a given month over a two-year period.

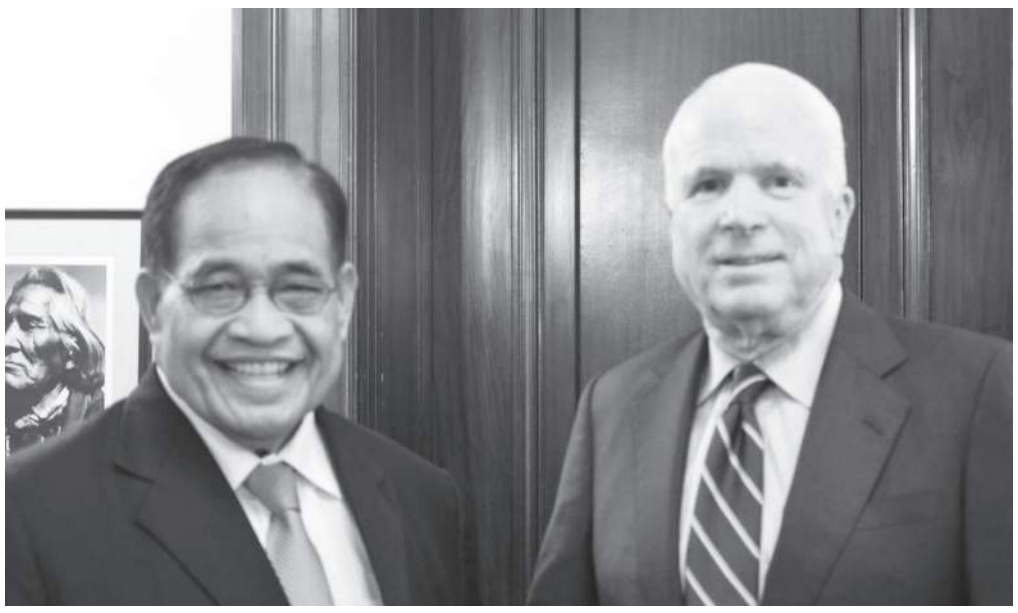
"It is thus understandable if the victim cannot recall exact dates of the alleged crimes because they took place over a 24-month period," the judge pointed out.

Inos said in the three counts of sexual abuse of a minor, the information properly identified the victim, indicated the approximate time and location of the crimes, and described the type of conduct engaged in.

Thus, the judge said, Guerrero has been informed "of the nature of the charges brought against him."

Inos said in the three counts of assault and battery, the information properly identified the victim, indicated the approximate time and location of the event, described the type of conduct engaged in, and cited the provision of law allegedly violated.

Again, Inos said, the defendant is sufficiently informed to "adequately prepare his defense…"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, poses with Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) in a meeting to solicit the lawmaker's help in establishing a shipyard in the CNMI that would be able to service and repair U.S. flagship vessels.

Fitial working with McCain on shipyard amendment

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is still pushing to garner support from members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in an effort to take legislative action that would include the CNMI as an eligible site for the operation of a shipyard facility that would be able to service and repair U.S. flagship vessels.

Similar to the facility in Guam, a shipyard in the Northern Marianas would give ships operating in and around region a ship repair facility with full dry dock and overhaul capabilities in the Western Pacific.

While the CNMI has long been economically challenged by the lack of viable industries since the complete phase out of the garment industry, the Fitial administration has been trying to bring the large scale shipyard industry to the Commonwealth. Fitial first met with Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) in July 2011 to solicit the senator's assistance in pushing for such legislative fix. McCain, a Republican U.S. Senator, attempted to get this legislation moving in the Senate Armed Services committee last year, but the opposition by the Democrat majority in the Senate ultimately succeeded in blocking such an opportunity for the CNMI

"Not only would such a huge industry bring much needed economic stimulation to the CNMI, it would create much needed jobs for our residents," said Fitial. "At this point, providing jobs to our people is my administration's priority. The only way to achieve this goal is to lure big business types of investments."

Fitial met again with McCain during his trip to the nation's capitol last month. Again, Fitial asked for McCain's support. McCain expressed his concerns for the people of the NMI and his strong willingness to help resuscitate the depressed economy. McCain noted that although there is still a likelihood that Democrats in the U.S. Senate will still oppose it, he will make every effort to bring this much needed legislative amendment on the floor for consideration. Should democrats once again block this relief for the CNMI, both McCain and Fitial are hopeful that Republicans will take control of the U.S. Senate in the upcoming November elections. If Republicans take control of the Senate and retain control of the U.S. House, the CNMI stands to finally get the congressional assistance it deserves as members of the American political family.

"I remain hopeful that members of the U.S. Congress will strongly consider our request and pave the way for economic relief for the thousands of Americans who call the CNMI home," stated Fitial. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Muna-Barnes presses for full implementation of Guam's bottle bill

HAGÅTÑA—Legislative Secretary Sen. Tina Rose Muña-Barnes sent a letter to Guam Environmental Protection Agency administrator Eric Palacios yesterday requesting the implementation status of the Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act of 2010.

Muna-Barnes wrote to Palacios at the request of several families and community groups who have contacted her office and are eager to see the law fully implemented.

The Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act of 2010, commonly known as the Guam Bottle Bill, was introduced by Muña-Barnes in the 30th Guam Legislature. The bill was passed, signed into law on December 30, 2010 and is now Public Law 30-221.

"As Guamanians we share a unique connection to our land. We truly believe that our island environment is irreplaceable and deserving of our protection. I will continue to work closely with GEPA and our stakeholders to see the full implementation of this valuable piece of legislation," said Muna-Barnes.

For more information, call the Office of Muña-Barnes at 472-3455/6. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Saipan Water

Because of the recent *E.coli* contamination and other samples that tested positive for total coliform bacteria in the CUC Saipan water system during July, we have exceeded the allowable limit. Therefore, we are in violation of the drinking water standard. Although this incident is no longer an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 129 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during July 2012. 17.05 percent of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five (5) percent of samples may do so.

What should I do?

- You no longer need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. **Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.**

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

What is being done?

Leaks were detected and repaired in the following areas: As Matuis, Dandan, Gualo Rai, Kagman, Navy Hill, Sadog Tasi, San Vicente, and Tanapag. Water operators also increased disinfection and flushed water lines in the Dandan, Koblerville, and San Antonio areas. Further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

For more information, please contact CUC Water Division at 322-5030 or PO Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

State Water System ID#: MP0000001. Date distributed: August 8, 2012

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, PO Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 235-7025 through 235-7032 Facsimile: (670) 234-5131

Island Snapshots

SHOW OF STRENGTH

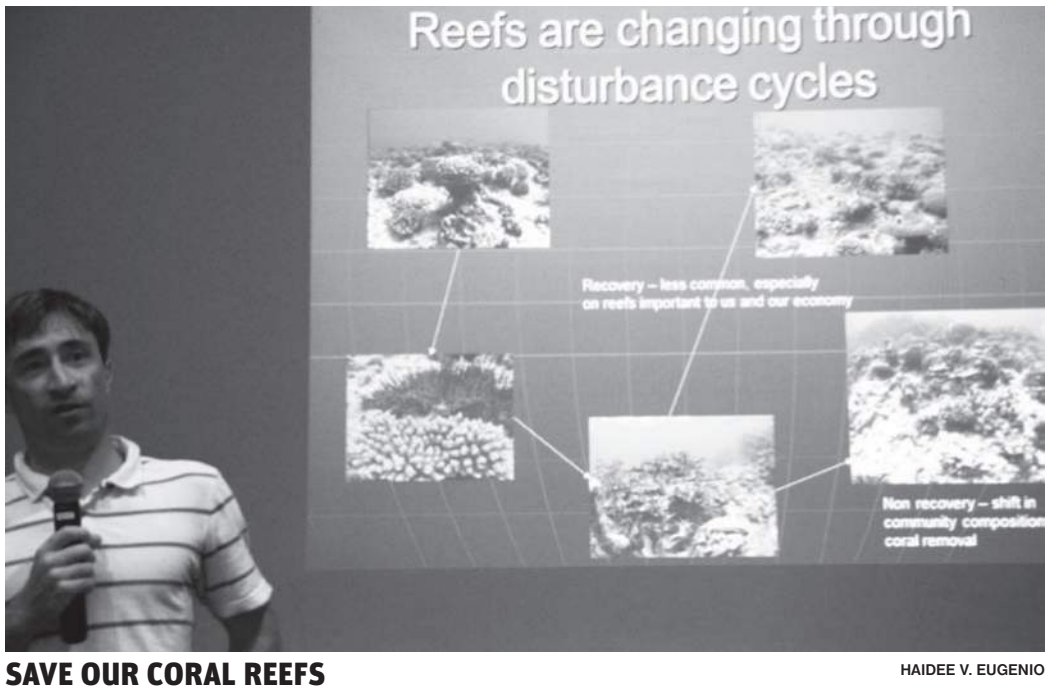
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, president of the Republican Party of the CNMI Association, joins party candidates, members, and supporters outside the Commonwealth Election Commission after the filing of nomination petitions and documents Tuesday.

◄ Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, president of the Republican Party of the CNMI Association, shows Tuesday a letter and memorabilia from Republican National Convention chair Reince Priebus.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), right, chairman of the so-called Independent Republicans, signs documents while Independent Republican candidates look on during yesterday's filing of nomination and documents with the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe.


Reefs are changing through disturbance cycles
Recovery – less common, especially on reefs important to us and our economy
Non recovery – shift in community composition coral removal

SAVE OUR CORAL REEFS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

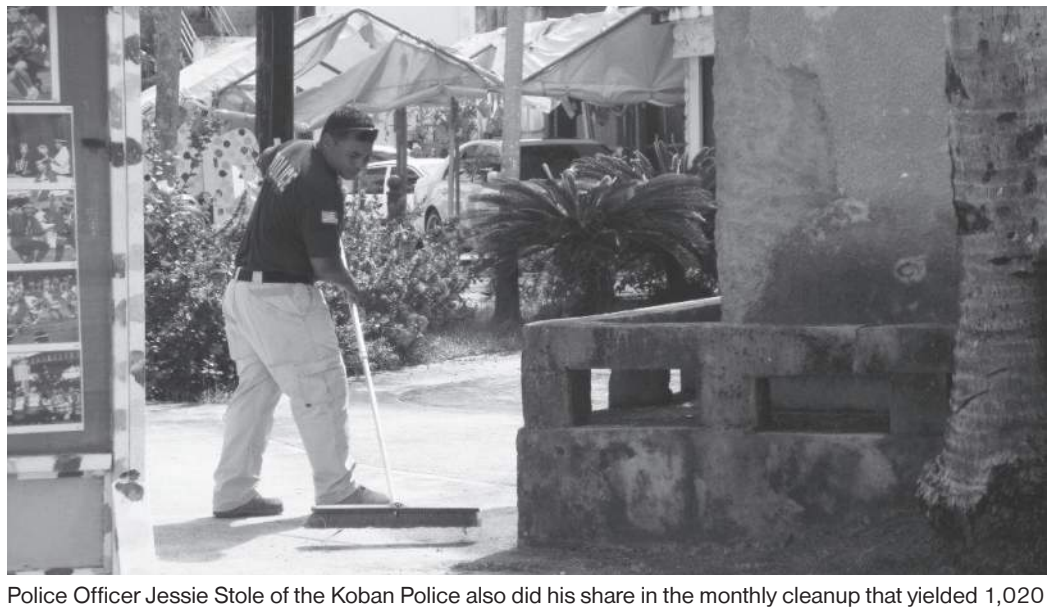
Pacific Marine Resources Institute chief biologist Dr. Peter Houk speaks on the status of the islands' coral reef resources—specifically how reefs are changing due to disturbance cycles—during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan last week.

MONTHLY CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prescy Mendoza and Halle Fitipol pick up dried leaves on sides of the island along Beach Road during PDM Promoters, Inc.'s August cleanup last Saturday.

Kessie of Kinpachi Restaurant joins Saipan Awaodori Team's Nikishia and Nicole Malakai and Elaiza Suarez in cleaning up the area of the Paseo de Marianas facing Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

A Kinpachi Restaurant staff is busy bush-cutting overgrowth in this area of the Paseo de Marianas.



Police Officer Jessie Stole of the Koban Police also did his share in the monthly cleanup that yielded 1,020 lbs of trash.

DESPITE LIMITED RESOURCES:

Flores says municipality's projects succeeding

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite funding challenges, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores disclosed that many of the municipality's programs and projects are succeeding

Flores, who was yesterday's guest speaker at the weekly Saipan Rotary Club meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan, said one of the successful projects is the recently concluded July 4th Liberation Day.

Flores said because of funding constraints, the municipality initially planned to call off the traditional celebration, but after receiving support from several partners and the community, the festivities went well as expected.

Flores reported that the Liberation Day festivities generated $29,208 compared to expenses of $27,711.

He specifically recognized KKMP for its generous support in covering expenses related to entertainment, advertisement, and documenting the celebration. For the first time, the liberation festivity was held alcohol- and tobacco-free, he added.

Last Monday, Flores also shared that a meeting took place between his office staff and the contractor for the animal control shelter in Lower Base.

Construction of the much-anticipated dog kennels is targeted to start this month. Once completed, the municipality will be able to open the kennel for full operation. Two weeks ago, he shared that the Division of Environmental Quality also approved the waste water disposal system plan for the project. The dog control program was established many years ago but was not enforced due to lack of funding.

The municipality, he said, is also gearing toward the street numbering system project in collaboration with the Department Public Works. The street numbering system is a requirement of law under the municipality.

"We will be reviewing Saipan Local Law Nos. 5-6 and 11-3 to see what we can do to bring the process of assigning addresses with street numbers. Though the task of naming streets on Saipan was completed years ago, we still need to assign numbers to homes, business buildings, structures, etc," said Flores.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Saipan Mayor Donald Flores updates members of the Saipan Rotary Club yesterday about the status of the municipality's projects and programs during the organization's weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Besides the above projects, Flores said his office is also assisting the community in removing scrap metal from their private property. Unfortunately, the lack of more equipment to do the task is hampering the municipality in this project. But he promised to revive the service once equipment is identified.

Flores also revealed that his office has also met with members of a professional baseball team from Korea and discussed their interest in making Saipan their spring pre-season training site. This professional baseball team currently makes arrangements to fly its players from Korea to Arizona for its pre-season training.

"According to the members of the team whom we met earlier this year, Saipan is a preferred destination because it is closer to Korea, the weather is perfect for training, it would be cheaper to bring their players to Saipan than it is to Arizona, among other reasons. We believe we must do everything within our powers to make it possible for this and maybe other teams to come to Saipan for spring training," he said, adding that the municipality is also planning to develop a new baseball field in the near future.

Plans to seek federal and local funding support for the construction of a nature trail and developing new sites were also bared by the mayor yesterday.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL suspends bookmobile outreach service

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Bookmobile Outreach Services would like to let the Public and Community know that bookmobile services will be cancelled from Aug. 14 to 18, 2012. The Bookmobile staff will be on training. Bookmobile services will resume on Aug. 21, 2012. We apologize for the inconvenience. ***(PR)***

WSR school uniform orders no ongoing

William S. Reyes Elementary School uniform orders are now open for school year 2012-2013. Stop by the main office to order. T-shirt sizes youth XS-XL and adult small-XL is $10 each and adult XXL is $12 each. Deadline to order uniform is Aug. 22, 2012. ***(PR)***

Professions licensing board to amend regs

The Health Care Professions Licensing Board is notifying the general public that it proposes to amend the regulations for dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental assistants, and acupuncturists in the Vol. 34, No. 07, July 29, 2012 publication of the Commonwealth Register.

The HCPLB will also publish new regulations to license/regulate EMTS (Emergency Medical Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, EMT-Paramedics).

Interested persons may obtain hard copy or electronic copy of the proposed amendments from the board's office located at Bldg. No. 1242 Pohnpei Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or contact the HCPLB at the above number or email address.

Anyone interested in commenting on the new/proposed amendments may do so within 30 days from the date the notice was published in the Commonwealth Register. ***(PR)***

Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District meeting on Aug. 14

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting their monthly meeting on Aug. 14, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road, Garapan. For more information contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-3320. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach set for Aug. 13-16

This is to inform all Veterans that Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Veteran's Service Representative from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Rota and Saipan for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits. She will also be entertaining your questions and assist you with your claims.

Date, time and place are as follows:

- Rota: Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, 0830-1630 at the WIA Office
- Saipan: Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012, 0900-1630

Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012. 0800-1630

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, 0800-1130 at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, Building 1364, Capitol Hill

If you wish to make an appt or for further information, please contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans affairs at (670) 664-2650/59. ***(PR)***

Navy to conduct training at Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Aug. 7-8 from 9am to 4pm.

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10"N/144° 30"E, 13° 10"N/144° 42"E, 12° 50"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/143° 00"E, 11° 45"N/143° 00"E, 12° 50"N/144° 30"E.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) **Spa Massage Therapist**
Qualification: minimum of 2 years work experience as a masseuse. Ability to speak English and Chinese language is highly preferred. Performs professional massage therapy, body treatments and facials. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including holidays, weekends and nights. Good customer service and interpersonal skills are required.

Applications may be obtained from Fiesta Resort's security office located at the South Wing. No phone calls please. Closing date for applications to be submitted and considered is August 13, 2012.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-030
Opening Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Senior Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power Division (Transmission and Distribution) Manager or his/her designee. Prepares equipment for use on projects to include inspecting to ensure is working properly. Performs field duties to include: collecting and gathering data; determining assembly requirements; preparing data for drawings; clearing underground facilities; providing storm damage assessments; conducting field inventories; conducting testing; conducting severance verifications by locating and verifying boundaries; conducting verifications on materials; and, conducting land title research. Prepares drawings, plans, as-builts and land acquisition documents; performs engineering calculations. Receives incoming applications and prepares daily assignments. Prepares and submits a variety of reports and documents to include securing permits. Prepares staking sheets to determine the cost of the required work as stated in the application. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Power Division (T & D); Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $23,200.00 to $31,324.00 per annum; un-classified, un-graded.
POSITION: Two (2).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associate Degree in Construction Management, or a related field and two years of senior engineering technician experience. Knowledge of: Public rights of way; CADD programs; Global Positioning Systems; National Electric Code; Mathematics; Basic engineering concepts. Skill in: Drafting; Preparing engineering drawings using CADD; Preparing charts and graphs; Performing mathematical calculations; Performing basic engineering calculations; Solving problems; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a U.S. or CNMI driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-029
Opening Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Administrative Support Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Purchasing Officer or his/her designee. Drafts a variety of documents such as memorandums, correspondence, reports, and schedules. Performs routine clerical support duties to include: preparing certifications; maintaining databases; performing data entry; filing; faxing; copying; routing documents and information; separating and sorting documents; uploading and downloading routes; restocking supplies; scheduling appointments; and, typing. Explains CUC and departmental policies and procedures. Coordinates supervisor's schedule and screens/ responds to supervisor's routine messages. Collects, receives, processes, sorts, and distributes a variety of correspondence, documents, deliveries, and mail. Responds to requests for information and provides assistance with completing departmental paperwork; resolves customer complaints. Compiles, reviews and processes timecards. Attends and takes minutes at meetings; gathers and organizes information to be discussed on the agenda. Makes and coordinates travel arrangements. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: CUC Purchasing Office; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $19,425.00 to $25,231.00 per annum; un-classified, un-graded.
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Associates Degree in related field is preferred. Four (4) years of proven work experience in purchasing or procurement and supply. Proven experience in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, in Microsoft Office 2007 or later is preferred. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Phone etiquette; Modern office procedures, methods, and equipment; Basic filing and record keeping principles. Skill in: Providing customer service; Preparing reports; Prioritizing work; Providing customer service; Alphabetizing and filing; Keyboarding; Using modern office equipment; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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NMC Fall '12 registration begins next week

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Fall 2012 semester will begin next week on Monday, Aug. 13, and runs through Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week. Late registration is on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation, and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New or returning (re-admitted to NMC) students are required to attend the Fall 2012 student orientation scheduled prior to registration. New or returning students who do not attend a student orientation will not be able to register for courses. To register to attend a student orientation or for additional information, contact Neda C. Deleon Guerrero, NMC Career Services Manager, at 234-5498 ext. 1313 or email nedac@nmcnet.edu.

New students are also required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisors, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules. Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week. Note the following dates below:

Fall 2012 Important Dates

■ Aug. 8 Student Orientation for New and Re-Admitted Students
9am to 12:30pm (Room D-1)
■ Aug. 9 Student Orientation for New and Re-Admitted Students
4pm to 7:30pm (Room D-1)
■ Aug. 13 Registration for Students with PowerCampus # 000000100 through 000011900
■ Aug. 14 Registration for Students with PowerCampus # 000011901 through 000015100
■ Aug. 15 Registration for Students with PowerCampus # 000015101 through 000017660
■ Aug. 16 Registration for all New, Re-Admitted and Ongoing Students
■ Aug. 17 Late Registration for New, Re-Admitted and Ongoing Students

English Placement Test Schedule

■ Aug. 8, 10, 13, 15, 17 9am-4pm Building M
■ Aug. 9, 14, 16 9am-6pm Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

■ Aug. 14 10am-12pm Room A-9
5pm-7pm Room A-9
■ Aug. 15 10am-12pm Room A-9
■ Aug. 16 10am-12pm Room A-9
5pm-7pm Room A-9
■ Aug. 17 10am-12pm Room A-9

Ongoing students must obtain registration clearance at the Finance Office, the NMC Library, and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any holds exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1540.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Fall 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1540, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Hix named marketing representative for Xerox Guam/Saipan

Nola Hix has been appointed marketing representative at Xerox Guam/Saipan.

In her new position, Hix will be responsible for providing new and existing clients in Saipan with solutions to effectively manage their documents, allowing customers to focus on their core business.

Prior to joining Xerox Guam/Saipan, Hix served as marketing coordinator of Docomo Pacific, one of Guam's leading telecommunication services providers. While at Docomo, Hix was responsible for launching new plans, promotions, company trade agreements, advertising campaigns, and customer incentives for existing and potential customers.

Hix

Before that, Hix served as marketing coordinator of IT&E. Hix is a graduate of Saipan Southern High School, where she received the President's Silver Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

Xerox Guam first opened its doors in 1966 as a one-person office to serve businesses in Guam and shortly after opened its doors on Saipan. Since that time Xerox Guam has grown into one of the largest document-product sales, service, and support team with more than 30 employees, offering a variety of technologically advanced business equipment, from copiers, fax machines, and color copiers and printers to high-speed laser printers and fully networked digital document solutions.

Xerox Saipan is located on the first floor of the Family Building in Garapan, Saipan. For more information, call 233-5192/5. ***(PR)***

FEDS FEED FAMILIES FOOD DRIVE

Salvation Army recipient of this year's collections

Feds Feed Families, a national food drive led by the Office of Personnel Management, said the food it collects this year will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army feeds about 400 people every week. Children are now out of school, and so they aren't benefiting from school nutrition programs. The need is even greater throughout the country this year to donate to food drives.

Feds Feed Families' goal is to raise food for Americans struggling with hunger across the county. It began in 2009 as part of President Obama's United We Serve campaign and was designed to help food banks and pantries stay stocked during summer months. A time when they traditionally encounter decreases in donations and increases in the need for assistance.

The 2012 Feds Feed Families Food Drive began nationwide on June 1 and ends on Aug. 31. USDA has set a goal of raising 1.8 million lbs of food during the 2012 Feds Feed Families food drive. This food drive is a collection of healthy food, both canned and fresh when possible. Healthy foods should be reduced in fat, sugar, and salt. Donations from the community would be greatly encouraged. Anyone can help!

Donation for this year's Feds Feed Families can be dropped off at the USDA-NRCS Saipan Service Center. A drop box has been placed in the front reception area of the office located on Beach Road in the D.Y. Building in South Garapan.

For more information, call 233-3415 ext. 106 and ask for Puna. Or you can e-mail taisha.kawamae@usda.gov. Thank you and I hope you can find a way to help the hungry in our community! ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday greetings go out to Jolina P. Gopez! May your day be filled with lots of blessings, love, and more wonderful birthdays to come. May God bless you today, tomorrow, and always. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, Britney, M.J., and Ariany Kailey

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Birthday greetings go out to Kat Kat who is celebrating her 10th birthday today, Aug. 8, 2012. Birthday wishes come from her parent and brothers Lester and Lawrence Guevarra.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Archie Feliciano! I couldn't get the billboard, so I got this for you instead. Have a wonderful birthday and many more to come! I love you so much! From your one and only Honey.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 8, 2000

Test Tanapag groundwater for PCB

Division of Environmental Quality Director Ignacio Cabrera has asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to test the groundwater in Tanapag village's Cemetery No. 2 to determine if it has been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a highly toxic chemical. "If it's contaminated, then they would have to carry out the treatment of the groundwater too," Mr. Cabrera said. DEQ raised a number of concerns which must be addressed by the Army Corps and the Environmental Chemical Corp., the contractor in the scheduled cleanup. Tests will be conducted in Cemetery No. 2 before and after the remediation process.

BOE moves to restore WGIs

The State Board of Education has moved to restore within grade increases for Public School System employees, saying the yearly five percent increase in personnel's salary is long overdue. With or without the passage of the CNMI Fiscal Year 2001 budget, BOE Vice Chair Roman Benavente said the board has opted to push through with the WGI rollback to assist hardworking PSS employees who have survived the past two years without receiving such incentive. Mr. Benavente added the funds will be sourced out of PSS' $32.8 million personnel allotment. The board has given Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos the flexibility to oversee the implementation of the increase based on the amount of resources available within the system, according to the vice chair.

Aug. 8, 2001

Delay in project angers Rota exec

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona said yesterday that he may exercise his emergency powers to fast-track the construction of a road which had been delayed due to the alleged "inaction" of a local and federal agency. Manglona lambasted officials of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and their local counterparts for their alleged failure to issue a permit to a construction application that is needed to start the "back road" project, stretching from the Rota airport to Songsong Village. "About a year ago, a construction application was submitted to the Fish and Wildlife agency for approval. To date, despite our vigorous efforts to move this project and comply with wildlife concerns, Fish and Wildlife officials have withheld the application's approval," Manglona said.

Fitial: Repeal anti-business laws

House Speaker Benigno Fitial sees an urgent need to charge certain business laws to provide the government a strong foundation for success in its goal of opening the local market to foreign investors. In particular, Fitial wants to see a total repeal of the present moratorium on the hiring of nonresident workers and the $100,000-dollar security deposit requirement, which, he said, have become major stumbling blocks for investors who have long wanted to put their money into the local economy. The Speaker said he will soon introduce a bill that will seek to repeal remaining anti-business laws in a special House Session this week.

Aug. 8, 2002

DPW begins use of PCB soil as dump cover

The Department of Public Works started getting treated soil from the PCB treatment site in Tanapag in May, even before the Division of Environmental Quality gave its conditional approval early last month to allow their use for daily cover at the Puerto Rico dumpsite. Frank Ono, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' on-island representative, revealed this saying that the department has been getting soil intermittently since May. When asked, however, as to how much volume of soil has been taken by the DPW so far, Ono said he is doesn't know exactly.

NMI urged to develop more rehab programs

Over 40 participants from across the CNMI converged yesterday for the kick-off session of the three-day Rehabilitation Capacity Building Project workshop facilitated by visiting experts from the Southern University of Baton, Louisiana. The workshop, organized by the Northern Marianas College, Southern University, SDSU Interwork Institute and Rocky Mountain Technical Assistance and Consulting Center, is designed to provide basic information required in grant applications available to minority entities such as the CNMI. RCPB national coordinator Daniel Hopkins said the workshop's goal is to improve the quality services to people with disabilities from culturally diverse populations, particularly by increasing the involvement of these people in the rehabilitation field.

Pacific

Volcano erupts on New Zealand's North Island

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A volcano has erupted on New Zealand's North Island, spreading a layer of thick ash for several kilometers (miles) and causing some nearby residents to evacuate their homes. Some domestic flights were canceled.

Scientists say they noticed increased seismic activity below Mount Tongariro for weeks but got no specific warning before the volcano blew late Monday night. The eruption of ash and rocks lasted about 30 minutes and didn't cause any injuries or damage in the sparsely populated central North Island region, which is a designated national park.

The park is a popular tourist destination and formed the backdrop for many scenes in the "Lord of the Rings" movies.

The eruption did prompt some nearby residents to evacuate their homes as a precautionary measure, and caused authorities to temporarily close roads. National carrier Air New Zealand canceled or delayed domestic flights to towns near the mountain. No international flights were affected.

Police said a witness described flashes and explosions followed by a cloud of ash coming from a hole in the north face of the mountain.

Steve Sherburn, a volcanologist at the government agency GNS Science, said the eruption spread a layer of ash several

AP

Vic Cassin sweeps ash from a car in Rangipo near Mount Tongariro, New Zealand after an eruption, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012.

centimeters (one or two inches) thick for several kilometers (miles). He said he'd heard reports of ash traveling on wind currents to coastal towns 100 kilometers (60 miles) away. He said the eruption was likely caused by steam pressure building within the mountain before bursting through the ground.

New Zealand is part of the Pacific's "Ring of Fire" and has frequent geothermal and seismic activity. However, the last verified eruption of Mount Tongariro occurred in 1897, marking the end of a decade of volcanic activity.

Sherburn said it was too early to determine whether the latest eruption was the start of a renewed cycle of activity.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Japan, SKorea, US hold exercises off Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP)—Japan, South Korea and the United States will hold joint exercises in waters of Hawaii this week. The U.S. Pacific Fleet said in a statement Monday the drills will include a search-and-seizure exercise, a counter-piracy event, a search-and-rescue exercise and officer exchanges. Three U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships will participate. They are the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal, the guided missile destroyer USS Chafee, the dry cargo ship USNS Matthew Perry and the cutter USCGC Galveston Island. The drills scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday come shortly after monthlong Rim of the Pacific multinational exercises were held in Hawaii. Both Japanese and South Korean forces participated in RIMPAC. The Pacific Fleet says the drills will help the nations work better together, improve readiness and boost proficiency.

Samoa export earnings drop 36 percent since May 2011

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Samoa's export earnings dropped 36 percent to about 1.8 million U.S. dollars in May. The drop was due to lower gains from re-exports and domestic exports such as fresh fish, spring water, taro, jandals, Samoan cocoa, salt beef and vegetables. According to the Economic Performance report from the Central Bank of Samoa for the month of May, the drop in export revenue led to an expansion of the merchandise trade deficit. Import costs rose 1 percent to just over 28 million dollars, widening the merchandise trade deficit by seven percent. Private remittances registered a marked improvement in May 2012 with a 35 percent increase to just over 16 million U.S. dollars. Meanwhile tourism earnings were 36 percent higher than in May 2011. This reflects the large number of expatriate Samoans attending church conferences and arriving in late May for the 50th independences celebrations in the first week of June.

Vehicle convoy planned for Tahiti fuel price strike

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The French Polynesian group seeking lower fuel prices has organized a car convoy to drive around the island of Tahiti. According to local radio, more than 200 vehicles joined the action which was meant to generate more support for a further rally this weekend. Late last month, the group, Te Tau no te Hono, mobilized an estimated 2,000 people for a march in Papeete as part of its campaign to have the latest fuel price hike rescinded. The rally came after the group, using trucks and heavy machinery, blocked some Papeete roads for three days, causing massive traffic jams. There has been no indication that the government of Oscar Temaru will authorize a fuel price drop.

Papuan activist taken off Interpol's wanted list

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Benny Wenda, the head of the Free West Papua Movement, had been issued with a red notice and was at risk of arrest and extradition. He has lived with his wife and children in the English city of Oxford since being granted asylum in Britain nine years ago. The Indonesian authorities say they wanted him to stand trial for murder and arson, offences he denies. But Interpol decided the case against Mr. Wenda was "political." In a letter to Fair Trials International, which has campaigned on his behalf, the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files says it has deleted information about his case from its records. The British government accepted Mr. Wenda's asylum application in 2002 after hearing allegations he had been persecuted by the Indonesian authorities.

Vanuatu fisheries director disputes illegal fishing claims

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—The Director of the Fisheries Department Moses Amos and Commander of the Maritime Wing John Taleo told Daily Post that story carried in DP on171 Fishing Boats illegally fishing in Vanuatu waters and the amount of VT245 million [US$2.6 million] pumped out of the country annually is misleading.

In an interview with Daily Post this week, Moses and Taleo said in fact the 171 fishing vessels are actually the registered fishing vessels that have been licensed by either the Vanuatu Government or the Fiji Government to fish in their territorial waters.

"The 171 fishing vessels are licensed under the four Bilateral Fishing Access Agreements (BFFA) to fish in Vanuatu and Fiji Economic Zones. Having granted the license for these 171 Fishing Vessels, we are then required to provide a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) or a Boat to Boat Monitoring System to ensure no other unregistered fishing vessels enter and fish in Vanuatu waters apart from the 171 registered vessels," they told Daily Post. They say many of these vessels have their base in Fiji.

"As soon as they leave Fiji and enter Vanuatu waters, we provide 24 hours monitoring service through the RVS Tukoro under a systematic surveillance known as SNAP SHOT Plan. The Vanuatu Maritime Wing conducts regular patrols of Vanuatu Economic Zone, especially to ensure the registered Fishing Vessels comply with the requirements granted to them," Commander Taleo told Daily Post.

Commander Taleo also confirmed that Australia and New Zealand provide regular air surveillance throughout the Vanuatu Waters under the current bilateral Assistance Program. And the French Government in New Caledonia also provides air surveillance under the Agreement between Noumea and Port Vila.

"We therefore have three mode of patrolling Vanuatu Waters; one is through the Vanuatu Maritime Wing with the Patrol Boat RVS Tukoro, and two aerial surveillance by the Australia, New Zealand and a third with New Caledonia.

Vanuatu is a member of Western Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Vanuatu's report on illegal Fishing in our waters goes to this body which has a base in Fiji to take up the illegal fishing issues with the Fishing companies. This body makes fishing regulations which Vanuatu complies with," both Taleo and Moses told Daily Post.

They also confirmed that the WCPFC has strict regulations and penalties that have discouraged illegal fishing in Vanuatu and other Pacific Islands economic zones.

"Vanuatu is also a declared whale, dugong and dolphin sanctuary and has received an award for this," said Moses.

On the question of Vt245 million on illegal fishing, Commander Taleo and Director Amos said the money is not pumped out of the country but rather is injected into the Vanuatu revenue.

And that the Ministry of Finance intends to increase this to Vt500 million [US$5.4 million]. They also said Vanuatu has a limit of up to only 2,000 tons allowed for Yellow Fin Tuna to be fished out of Vanuatu Water annually and 10,000 tons annually is for Albacore Tuna and 1,000 tons for Skip Jack.

"It is not easy providing continuous patrols over the 663,251square kilometers of the Vanuatu Economic Zone," the officers told Daily Post.

The Commander of the Vanuatu Maritime Wing John Taleo explained that between January to July 2012, the RVS Tukoro spent 45 sea-day patrols over the Vanuatu Economic Zone. By December this year, RVS Tukoro is expected to reach a total of 82 sea-day patrols.

Commander Taleo further explained that it costs Vt3.3 million [US$35,464] per sea-day trip and the money comes from the Australian Government without which it would be difficult to provide the Sea Surveillance over the Vanuatu economic zone.

Murdock to keep house, rare orchids in island sale

HONOLULU (AP)—David Murdock has sold his Hawaiian island, but he's keeping his seven-bedroom Lanai home, a woodworking shop containing koa furniture, two carved elephant tusks in a resort lobby, and 1,000 rare orchid plants.

The billionaire is holding on to those assets and others, while selling most of Lanai to Oracle Corp. CEO Larry Ellison.

It was already known that Murdock would be retaining rights to a controversial wind project, but a redacted version of the sale agreement was submitted to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission this week, and it outlines what assets the two billionaires agreed that Murdock would retain.

Lawyers for Murdock's Castle & Cooke Inc. said redactions were necessary to protect business interests. The price Ellison paid for 98 percent of the island's 141 square miles has not been revealed, though the Maui News previously reported the asking price was $500 million to $600 million. Maui County records show the assessed value for all of Lanai's land is $635.4 million.

The latest filing is related to the utilities commission's ongoing review on permanent approval to transfer three utilities. Interim approval was granted in June, allowing the sale to proceed.

Murdock's seven-bedroom, seven-bathroom,44,921-square-foot (13, 691.92-meter) private residence on Kipihaa Place has an assessed value of $6,192,000, according to Maui County property records. Some of the other assets he will keep include a lot across the street from the home, assorted apartments, two carved wood Balinese sculptures in a resort lobby and Richard's grocery store.

Richard's is one of three markets in town, and now the only employees who work for Murdock are those who work in Richard's, said Robin Kaye, spokesman for Friends of Lanai, which formed to oppose Murdock's wind farm that would deliver power to Oahu through an undersea cable.

"There are many people who won't shop in Richard's because it's Murdock's," he said Thursday. It's a small, yet crucial part of the island because it's a major source of food and sundries, he said.

Under Murdock's ownership, the lobbies of the two resorts were furnished like Asian art museums, Kaye said, but those pieces have recently been removed and some are hopeful they'll be replaced with decor that's more reflective of Hawaii.

"You're not going to come here because it's Maui or Waikiki, you're going to come here because it's Lanai," Kaye said. "We're hopeful it'll be sensitive to the beauty and Hawaiianness of the island. It's quite an aesthetic change."

Meanwhile, Ellison's senior-level employees have been in town every couple of days and have been talking with the community—a hopeful sign of what life will be like under Ellison's ownership, Kaye said.

A spokeswoman for Redwood City, California-based Oracle declined to comment Thursday.

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Never mind Michael Phelps, Olympic committee goes for gold

No one goes for the gold quite like the International Olympic Committee. The NFL and its Super Bowl? FIFA, soccer's governing body, and its World Cup?

When it comes to crass commercialism, they're pikers by comparison. The IOC will rake in $6 billion from the London Olympics, and its elite governing board couldn't care less that more than half of the participants have to work two or three jobs to make ends meet.

Here's what the Olympic spirit means to IOC President Jacques Rogge: Any form of on-site criticism or protest is strictly forbidden before, during or immediately after the Olympics. The IOC insisted well in advance that Britain's Parliament pass laws giving it policing powers that would make Third World dictators jealous.

The IOC is so intent on protecting its brand that it has nearly 300 enforcers on its payroll whose job is to wander London's boroughs and report violators. So far, according to journalists covering the Games, they have forced a London butcher to take down a sign made out of sausages in the shape of the Olympic rings, threatened a London restaurant with a $30,000 fine for calling itself "Cafe Olympic," and made sure another chef stopped offering a menu featuring a "flaming torch bacon and egg baguette."

What next? Forbidding anyone but McDonald's from selling french fries? Oops, they're doing that, too. The only way to get "chips" in the Olympic Village is to order them at the Golden Arches or buy them specifically as "fish and chips," the British staple that barely got special dispensation from the IOC.

Here's how bad it's gotten. When journalists asked the London Games chief organizer, former track star Sebastian Coe, whether spectators would be allowed into Olympic venues if they were wearing a Pepsi T-shirt or wearing Nike sneakers, he wasn't sure. A Coke shirt or Adidas shoes would be OK, of course. They're official Olympic sponsors.

It's the athletes who suffer most from the IOC's iron hand. Marketing rules forbid them from even publicly thanking their own sponsors or endorsing products from nine days before the opening ceremonies until three days after the close. U.S. athletes have been ordered to remove endorsements from their Twitter and Facebook accounts. Anybody challenging the strict rules is threatened with severe penalties.

The rules don't hurt athletes who make lavish incomes from their sport. But more than half of U.S. athletes work two or three jobs and make less than $15,000 a year while training. They need sponsors, but potential backers know that sponsorship loses a lot of its value if it can't be even mentioned during the Games.

If the Olympics were free of commercialism, the limits on athletes would be different. But they are supremely commercial. It's just that the IOC has a monopoly.

Some members of the U.S. track and field team are demanding change. We wish them luck. But it'll be hard to wrestle even an ounce of gold from guys who could object to flaming torch bacon and egg baguettes.

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On human rights, US must lead—or no one will

By FRIDA GHITIS
McClatchy Newspapers

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald*. Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

In the years immediately following the collapse of the Soviet Union, one would frequently hear worried musings about the sudden role of the United States, left alone on the world stage as the "World's Only Superpower." Some referred contemptuously to the American "hyper-power."

Now, in an unexpected turn of events, Washington's harshest critics are asking the United States to take an even greater role in world affairs, but to do it for the sake of protecting human rights across the globe.

Whoever wins the presidential elections, President Obama or Mitt Romney, human-rights activists, including Amnesty International and the ACLU, are imploring him to move decisively to the forefront of world affairs and take a firm stand in order to prevent genocide, human rights abuses and terrorism.

The goal is morally defensible—what could be more important than preventing genocide—but it is also one with strategic benefits for the United States.

It turns out the alternative to American leadership is no leadership at all, or not much of one. Often that means conflicts that spiral out of control with disastrous consequences, as we have seen time and time again.

America's relative power has declined significantly, especially in the last half-decade of economic weakness. The powers whose rise has paralleled the American decline, such as China, have shown no inclination to lift a finger in defense of human rights or for the prevention of conflicts that could devastate civilian populations.

As far as China, and still Russia, are concerned, conflicts are a problem only in that they interfere with trade or with strategic alliances. But the greatest threat, in their view, is a world that gives itself the right to tell other countries to respect freedoms, because they might later come calling in places like Tibet.

As the United States' ability to shape events diminished, it sought to rely more on international organizations and multilateral partnerships. But time and time again it has become clear that, as Bill Clinton's Secretary of State Madeleine Albright put it back in the days of the war in Bosnia, America is "the indispensable nation."

Back then, Albright was arguing that the United States should step in and stop the slaughter in the Balkans. The massacres ended rather quickly after U.S. fighter planes started slicing across the sky.

In many quarters, American military power is viewed with suspicion. And that's understandable. But even on the left, among those who care deeply about the suffering of human beings of all nationalities regardless of who their tormentors are, the view that the United States is indispensable is growing.

They don't want to see American soldiers marching across the globe, but they want to see America prevent and solve conflicts and lead the international community to a consensus that human-rights matter.

Amnesty International and the ACLU joined in a group of 22 well-known organizations and individuals who recently released a detailed study of the human-rights challenges facing the world—and the American president. They listed the top 10, along with a plaintive appeal that whoever sits in the Oval Office next year should embrace America's leadership position.

They didn't call for the United States to act alone and didn't necessarily call for military intervention of any kind, but they noted that "U.S. leadership is critical to effectively address international human-rights issues."

They recommended 10 policies, beginning with the need to "Prioritize U.S. leadership on international norms and universality of human rights." Not everyone will agree with their second policy recommendation, that America "Act to prevent genocide and mass atrocities," or the next one, that Washington

"Pursue policies that protect people from the threat of terrorism ..."Ideally, American actions to prevent genocide and human-rights abuses would not require military action. Making them a priority would enlist international support and help countries everywhere internalize rules of behavior, and send a message that violating them could have consequences. For that, however, there really must be consequences. That includes international condemnation, economic sanctions and, as a final resort, the use of force.

The authors of the human-rights paper correctly argue that a policy with a strong focus on human rights makes sense strategically. It's an argument others, including Albright, have made many times before.

When the United States stands for the dignity of individuals against the worst abuses of tyrants, it strengthens its moral core and it becomes a magnet for international support. Doing this is not always easy. It can create enormous practical dilemmas. Still, both Romney and Obama would do well to listen to this group's advice.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A river runs through

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

It was in the late '60s in Litchfield outside of Augusta in Maine. We were around a lake at a youth camp where the unforgettable experience was the mosquitoes. Earlier, DDT was used to eradicate the buzzers but a new hybrid emerged, returning with a vengeance, hovering around the earlobe like a swarm of bees, biting just as liberally and ferociously as well.

In our more than a week travelling along the Xin'an Range (Great Khingan Range in western Atlases) in its grasslands and wetlands, forests and rivers, plus a lake, the flying pests and gnats made known their disfavor for our intrusion into their territory. We were either unwanted, and were bitten to skin inflammations, and loved so dearly in a vampiric way that our blood was frequently sucked into what we can only deduce to be moments of leeching ecstasy!

We exaggerate but the wide expanse of the forest stand we recently traversed, after the dwindled cover of the Sierra Madre and the Cordilleras in the mountains of our childhood, allows for such expansive imagination.

As part of the conversation I lead in my Oral English class, I ask my students to introduce themselves by narrating the objective memory of their beginnings and what they can recall from the last two decades, invite them to freely dream of their days ahead, including naming places they would like to visit.

One of the students wanted to go to Bei Ji Cun, which translates to "North Pole Village" (according to one of my students since I do not speak Putunghua—the common language, nor read Zhongwen, the Chinese character-based language). I thought then that the lady was crazy, or had a hermitic bent. I had been to Dillingham, Alaska @ 59 degrees latitude and there was hardly anything to recommend a return other than to view the yearly migration of salmon upriver.

It turns out that there is such a place as Bei Ji Cun. It is an hour's bus drive from Mo He, the settlement with the coolest recorded temperature in the books (-54 C) at 52 degrees latitude, within a forest preserve, and evidently targeted as one of the tourist destination of choice by planners and consumers.

It lies in the headwaters of the Amur, the Heilongjiang from which the province is named. Mo He geographically belongs to Inner Mongolia but is administered by the Province of Heilongjiang, the north-easternmost province of the country that shares a contiguous border with Russia along the Amur River.

History buffs will recall that the border war between China and Russia is a century-old began between the Tsar and the Qing that extends from the Uyghurs of Xinjiang to the Manchus in Manchuria. (The Mongols recognized borders. They just didn't mind crossing them.) It was only in 2008 when the border disagreement was finally settled though it must be noted that whatever belligerent attitude China ever developed toward foreign powers was over Russia, England (in India), and France (in Indochina).

We had earlier visited Hei He by the Amur when it was frozen in winter, with intentions of crossing over into Russia. Our naivete was nurtured by the ease of crossing over into Canada from the U.S. (though a lunch in Metamoros, Mexico from Brownsville, Texas, cost us six hours at the border crossing), so when we learned that the Chinese needed only to show I.D. cards, I was sure it was not going to be difficult for the blue book to be allowed entry. NOT.

The mosquitoes did us a favor for keeping us grounded to the reality of the natural order and those within it. Humans are definitely intruders, and though the Zhongguoren has the Taoist tradition of proper reverence to the processes of nature, the awakened children of the frolicking Panda have strung electrical lines on the green, and liberally through their waste, particularly, the non-degradable plastics and styrofoams, into its waterways and forest trails.

It is a cultural contradiction. The government politicies are rather stringent in their rules, and the structures and systems in place are very adequate to meet them, if only the folks would pay them heed. The countryside folks tend to be more reverent to keeping the environment green. The urban folks, like their cousins around the world, tend to think that someone is paid enough to clean after their leavings.

The war between Russia and China, including territories by the Argun and Amur Rivers where the Russians made the demarcation, not on the middle of the maritime lane but on the shores of the China side, hankers back to the taking advantage of a weakened Qing rule by salivating colonizers abetted by the massive proliferation of heroin by mighty England on the comfort-prone population.

In our own topography of our inner spirit, we use the metaphors of a meandering river of consciousness, an overwhelmingly responseability in the mountain of care, and an ever expansive enigmatic land of mystery. In the Marianas, we had the image of the sea of tranquility, deep and broad as the Pacific, but deceptively unpacific in its reality.

While traversing the external geography, we were simultaneously plumbing the depth of the topography of our own spirit, and we are ever grateful that our consciousness will ever meander like the river, sometimes swift as the rapids, and calm in the plain.

Evidently, as the Argun and the Amur rivers ran through, the currents of our consciousness meandered as well.

Responsible steward of justice, anyone?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

Have you ever felt a strange warning you can't decipher, a nameless apprehension that something terribly wrong is going to happen?

It happened last weekend when eight police officers shielded the attorney general (who left last Saturday morning) from being served penal summon to appear in court last Monday. Apparently, DPS failed to prevent the receipt of a court order from happening. Ed Buckingham, the AG, is being charged by OPA for a number of serious charges that includes politics in a federal election and ARRA contracts, among others.

There's the unanswered query of whether the governor invoked or exercised executive power or privilege to shield what could potentially be an implosion of wrongdoings. His use of such authority though would be illegal if the intent is to stop a potential wrongdoing or its exposure from being probed. This is per a court decision in the Nixon-Watergate case. You don't cover up a potential wrong, according to the court.

Interesting how someone on the hill made sure the penal summon wasn't served but failed to do so royally. Buckingham received it. Whoever is the evil genius behind such callous and calculated filth is seriously involved in the obstruction of justice. Whatever happened to being elected to be a careful and responsible steward of justice?

Was executive power or privilege to shield the AG properly invoked or exercised to ward off exposure of potential wrongdoing? How sad that Ed is the fall guy while his boss takes a quick hiding in hopes nobody finds out.

It is now obvious more so than ever before that the failed shield was aimed at preventing the big fish from prosecutorial reach. Thus, it was made sure (in failure) that the former AG leaves so he doesn't open up a can of worms in court if the matter ever goes through.

Would we see justice rendered in this instance when someone muscled-in to ensure the digging stops before more shovels are fetched to dig deeper? Is there perceptual or real fear that doing so would eventually lead to a federal indictment for the violation of pertinent laws governing disposition of contractual award of federal funds and other issues raised by OPA?

There appears to be a vicious retaliatory legal feud between the AG's and OPA's offices. Hope the impending long and tenuous lawsuit would pan out to demonstrate which side is on the side of the truth. We all deserve to know it.

Then there's the manhandling of a reporter who was literally kept at a distance from the AG who was speedily checked-in and cleared through security. Her role is known in the business as fulfilling the public's right to know. What right has the general public in this case? Most are taxpayers who pay for the former AG's salary, including the salaries of servile police officers.

My apologies for being bias, but active journalists go through the thankless job of serving as the conscience of their people by "telling it like it is" with a sense of fairness. None of us relish the villainous role in a profession loaded with daily stresses especially on controversial issues. But it comes with the territory.

It's literally scary that the powers that be could cripple the delivery of justice. It shows dismissive arrogance and how power teeters on the edge of corruption at the highest level of government here. It saps every ounce of trust we once had in government we thought was civil and humble in protecting citizenry from assorted brutality and abuses.

It makes for a groping struggle to understand if this is really happening and was it the nameless apprehension I had heading into last weekend.

■ ■ ■

Fiscal responsibility

The NMI is attempting a fatal swim across the treacherous sea-divide between Saipan and Tinian. The lethal venture is the definite presence of huge sharks or debts almost everywhere. It makes a dip into the deep blue fatal at every turn. What must we do to catch fresh fish or new revenue streams?

It really boils down to the phrase "fiscal responsibility" where complete control on spending is instituted forthwith. It means your income (revenue) is larger than your expenses. Obviously, this isn't the case in the NMI today.

We spend while simultaneously incurring more debts beyond the ability of the local treasury to pay. In other words, we probably spend upwards of $1.50 for every dollar that comes into the coffers. This is one dangerous and fiscally paralyzing situation. You quiz if the local government could find optimism breathing some sigh of relief, hyperventilate or agonize as limited resources head Deep South.

Obviously, there's the dire need for spending control of what little we generate annually after the exodus of foreign capital. It means an all out effort at keeping a limited government. Skeletal it may be in these lean and mean times, it's a must have course of action today. The simple, universal lesson is that economic growth must outpace increases in government expenditures. For a listless economy, this means fixing our fiscal situation to stimulate the economy.

As we navigate the towering heavy seas of bankruptcy, it's important to understand why limiting the size of government and leaving more resources in private hands boosts growth. The private sector is far better at generating growth than is the public sector (which has other important roles in the economy). It follows that the main lesson for high-debts is spending control and the shifting of resources to growth.

Indeed, buckling down to spending within our means would be a politically difficult task. But the lean mean times doesn't leave much room for politicians to peddle redundancy, always trying to convince us to do the wrong things for what they say are the right reasons. Go ahead and deflate your overblown ego.

This could gain you more mileage than braving the waters of bankruptcy where in the end you tuck your tails between your legs singing "Let It Be". No we won't! We deserve brighter days than your trophy of hopelessness teetering at the edge of abject poverty.

■ ■ ■

Miscellany

The "One Pay De Odda" blow-up between the former AG and OPA made super banner headlines and elicited exciting reactions from folks for the failed shield to issuing the penal summon to Ed Buckingham, former AG. Its analogous to someone kicking a can of worms. Now legal eagles must collect each of the crawlers before they infect other governmental institutions. Never knew that digging your own grave could be an art too. OMG!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87 ° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

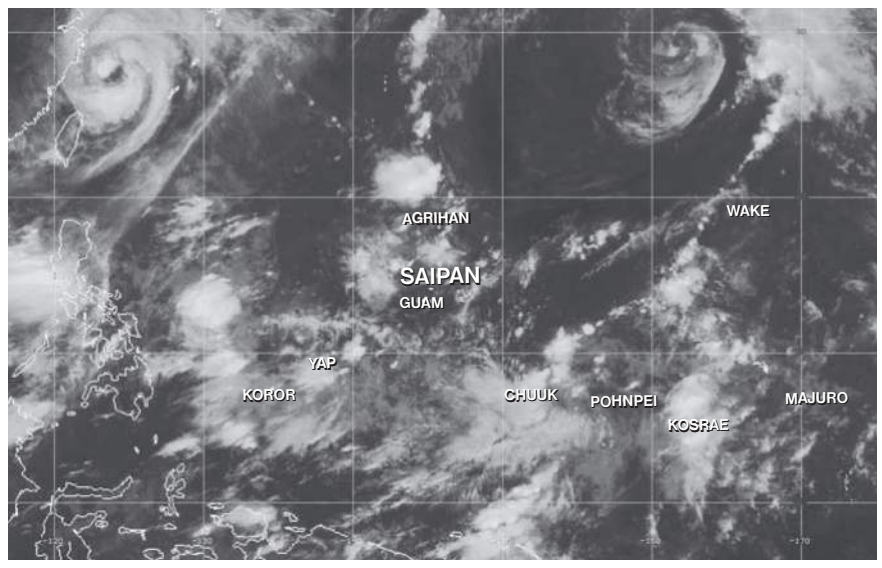
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲57	▼51
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲92	▼84
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Showers	▲74	▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼69
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Melbourne	Rain	▲58	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼70
Osaka	Sunny	▲93	▼75
Paris	Sunny	▲79	▼56
Pusan	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲95	▼70
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲92	▼74
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼74
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southwest winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just west of Koror to the west of a line from 4N134E to 18N134E and from Guam northward across the Northern Mariana Islands within 100 miles of a line from 13N142E to 25N144E. A disturbance centered southeast of Koror at 5N137E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from southeast of Koror across Yap between 10N and 3N from 136E to 140E. A near-equatorial trough runs east-southeastward from 10N140E to 5N157E then stretches northeastward to end near 13N164E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are between 10N and the Equator from 145E to 157E and within 200 miles of a line from 15N163E to EQ164E. Tropical storm 13W is near 29N162E. A few thunderstorms are north of Wake Island within 50 miles of a line from 23N167E to 25N169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:11 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
1:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:50 PM	10:58 AM
Thursday	11:32 PM	11:47 AM
Friday		12:37 AM
Saturday	12:16 AM	1:26 PM
Sunday	1:02 AM	2:16 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

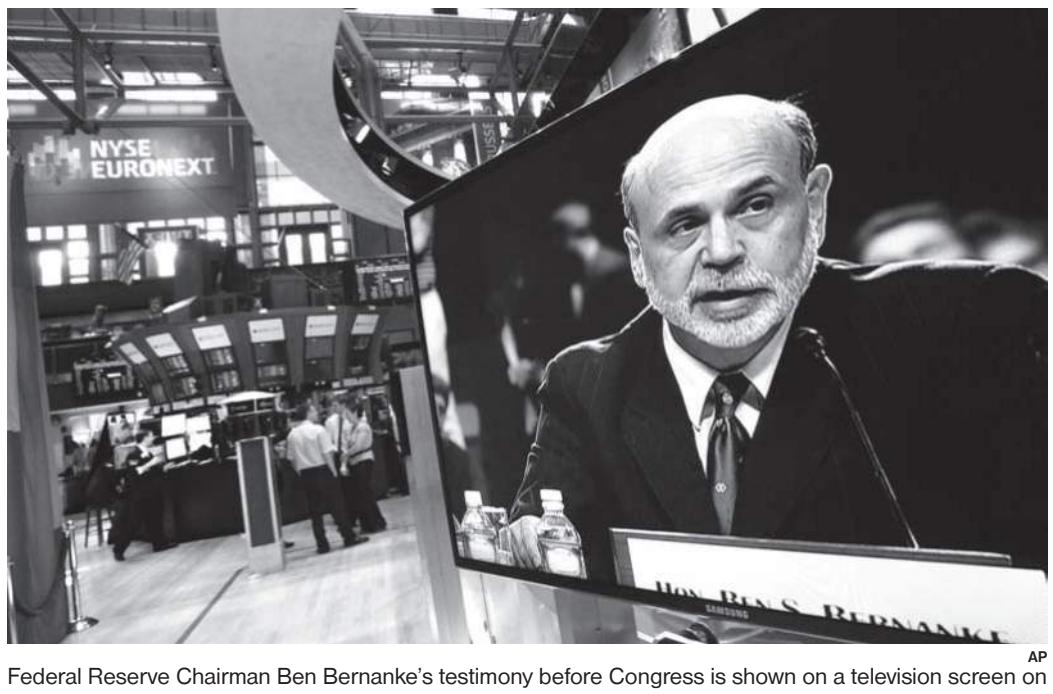
Business

Are you happy? Ben Bernanke wants to know

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ben Bernanke wants to know if you are happy.

The Federal Reserve chairman said Monday that gauging happiness can be as important for measuring economic progress as determining whether inflation is low or unemployment high. Economics isn't just about money and material benefits, Bernanke said. It is also about understanding and promoting "the enhancement of well-being."

Bernanke and Fed policymakers rely on reports on hiring, consumer spending and other economic data when making high-stakes decisions about the $15 trillion U.S. economy. The Fed's dual mandate is to maintain low inflation and full employment.



AP
Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's testimony before Congress is shown on a television screen on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, July 17, 2012.

"We should seek better and more-direct measurements of economic well-being," Bernanke said Monday in a video-taped speech shown to a conference of economists and statisticians in Cambridge, Mass. After all, promoting well-being is "the ultimate objective of our policy decisions."

Bernanke acknowledged that many people aren't too happy right now. Unemployment rose in July to 8.3 percent, and economic growth has slowed sharply from the start of the year. He called the recovery "frustratingly slow" when he testified to Congress on July 17.

Aggregate statistics can mask important information about how individual Americans are faring, Bernanke says. His speech Monday was the latest foray into a relatively new specialty in economics known as "happiness studies." Bernanke attracted widespread notice when he spoke about the economics of happiness in a May 2010 commencement address at the University of South Carolina.

In that speech, he said research has found that once basic material needs are met, more wealth doesn't necessarily make people happier. "Or, as your parents always said, money doesn't buy happiness," Bernanke said then. "Well, an economist might reply, at least not by itself."

In his remarks Monday, Bernanke turned to the more practical—and difficult—task of measuring a subjective emotion. So far, most efforts have involved surveys in which people are asked about whether they are happy and what contributes to their happiness.

Those surveys have found some consistent answers: physical and mental health, the strength of family and community ties, a sense of control over one's life, and opportunities for leisure activity.

The Kingdom of Bhutan has been tracking happiness for four decades. The tiny Himalayan nation stopped tracking gross national product in 1972 and instead switched to measuring Gross National Happiness.

Bernanke on Monday sketched out a few other questions he would like to know: How secure do Americans feel in their jobs? How confident are Americans in their future job prospects? How prepared are families for financial shocks?

These indicators "could be useful in measuring economic progress or setbacks as well as in explaining economic decision-making," Bernanke said.

It's safe to say that Bernanke wouldn't expect a great deal of optimism if those questions were asked now.

The Fed has said it plans to keep its key short-term interest rate near zero until late 2014, an indication that it expects the economy to stay weak for another two and a half years. And Fed policymakers appeared to signal after its two-day meeting last week a growing inclination to take further steps to lift the economy out of its slump.

UK bank accused of Iran money laundering scheme

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A British bank schemed with the Iranian government to launder $250 billion from 2001 to 2007, leaving the United States' financial system "vulnerable to terrorists," New York's financial regulator charged Monday.

In a statement released Monday night, Standard Chartered Bank said it "strongly rejects" and "contests" the New York regulators' portrayal of its transactions with Iranian banks. It said it voluntarily began reviewing the transactions since 2010 with U.S. regulators and the findings don't match the accusations leveled at the bank Monday.

State Financial Services Superintendent Benjamin Lawsky signed an order that requires London-based Standard Chartered Bank to answer his questions following an investigation into "wire stripping," the practice of removing crucial identifiers in financial transactions.

The state agency called the bank a rogue institution and quoted one of its executives as saying: "You (expletive) Americans. Who are you to tell us, the rest of the world, that we're not going to deal with Iranians."

The bank conspired with its Iranian clients to route nearly 60,000 different U.S. dollar payments through Standard Chartered's New York branch "after first stripping information from wire transfer messages used to identify sanctioned countries, individuals and entities," according to agency's order.

The order said the transactions provided the bank with millions of dollars in fees at a time when such trade was restricted.

"The group does not believe the order issued by the DFS presents a full and accurate picture of the facts," the bank said Monday night in a fuller response to Lawsky's order. "The analysis, that the group shared with all the U.S. agencies, demonstrates that throughout the period the group acted to comply, and overwhelmingly did comply, with U.S. sanctions and the regulations."

The statement said "well over 99.9 percent" of the questioned transactions with Iran complied with all regulations. The few transactions that didn't amounted to just $14 million, according to the bank. The bank said none of its Iranian payments was on behalf of any designated terrorist group.

Knight avoids collapse with $400M lifeline

NEW YORK (AP)—Knight Capital Group survived a near-death experience on Monday, lining up Wall Street firms to lend it badly needed cash after the brokerage lost $440 million last week when a malfunction in its trading system flooded the market with erroneous trades.

But the rescue, which came down to the wire, had a steep price: control of the firm. And it's still not certain that Knight will make it through the episode intact.

Knight's new investors will gain a 73 percent stake in the company and three board seats. The value of current shareholders' stake will also be heavily diluted. And Knight, which has removed the problem software and is still completing its own investigation of what went wrong, faces a difficult task of rebuilding trust with clients and persuading regulators that Wednesday's disaster was an anomaly. Its stock has plunged 70 percent since last Tuesday, before the glitch happened.

"This is an isolated situation," Knight's CEO Thomas Joyce said on CNBC Monday morning. "We screwed up. We paid the price."

All weekend, speculators wondered if Knight would be able to open for business Monday. The technical glitch briefly sent dozens of shares swinging wildly last week and left Knight responsible for many of the stocks that its computers accidentally ordered. The company had to drain its capital to cover the erroneous trades.

The trading disaster Knight caused has revived a thorny debate about how heavily stock trading has come to rely on massive computer systems. Stocks can now be traded in fractions of a second, often by automated programs.

Recent technical problems have eroded shareholders' confidence that they can trust the system—a point punctuated again Monday, when a technical problem shut down markets in Madrid for five hours.

Early Monday morning, before the stock market opened at 9:30 a.m., it still wasn't clear whether Knight was OK.

Just after 7 a.m., Knight made a regulatory filing saying it had secured a $400 million lifeline but that the deal wasn't yet sealed.

An hour later, the New York Stock Exchange threw another twist into the story, announcing it had temporarily reassigned some of Knight's trading responsibilities to a rival firm.

Best Buy founder offers to buy company, take it private

NEW YORK (AP)—Best Buy's co-founder is looking to make a buy of his own, offering to take the electronics seller private only months after leaving as the company's chairman.

Best Buy Co. said it would consider the offer but called it "highly conditional." And analysts are skeptical that former Chairman Richard Schulze's opening offer of $24 to $26 per share would get a deal done and that it could be tricky to line up investment firms to help pay for it.

It's the latest twist in the Minneapolis company's struggles to stay relevant as more people buy electronics online. Over the past year, it has announced a major restructuring plan and fired CEO Brian Dunn amid allegations that he had an inappropriate relationship with a female employee.

Best Buy is trying to avoid the fate of its rival Circuit City, which went bankrupt in 2009, partly because of changing shopper habits.

The offer values the company at as much as $8.84 billion. Schulze already has 20.1 percent of the stock in the company, so paying for the rest of shares would mean coming up with about $6.9 billion. Schulze resigned as chairman in May, after Dunn's departure. A company investigation found that Schulze knew about the inappropriate relationship and failed to alert the board or human resources.

Schulze had been expected to stay on the board until the company's annual shareholder meeting in June, but he resigned unexpectedly before the meeting and said he was exploring options for his hefty stake in the company. Analysts had been expecting a possible bid since that announcement.

"Immediate and substantial changes are needed for the company to return to its market-leading ways," Schulze said in a statement. "It is my strong belief that Best Buy's best chance for renewed success is to implement with urgency the necessary changes as a private company."

Schulze's offer would represent a 36 percent to 47 percent premium over the company's Friday closing stock price.

Schulze said he would have preferred to pursue a deal privately but went public with the offer for the sake of speed.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,117.51	1,394.23	2,989.91
+21.34	+3.24	+22.01
+0.16%	+0.23	+0.74%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9453	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7550	Philippine Peso	41.8100
British Pound	0.6415	Indian Rupee	55.3550	Singapore Dollar	1.2415
Canadian Dollar	1.0002	Indonesian Rupiah	9,467.00	South Korean Won	1,128.70
Chinese Yuan	6.3732	Japanese Yen	78.2645	Swiss Franc	0.9693
Euro	0.8069	New Zealand Dollar	1.2189	Thailand Baht	31.4500

Nation

Gunman in Sikh temple attack was white supremacist

OAK CREEK, Wis. (AP)—Before he strode into a Sikh temple with a 9mm handgun and multiple magazines of ammunition, Wade Michael Page played in white supremacist heavy metal bands with names such as Definite Hate and End Apathy.

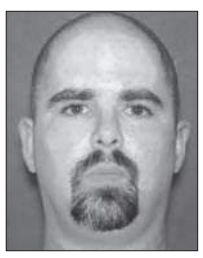
The bald, heavily tattooed bassist was a 40-year-old Army veteran who trained in psychological warfare before he was demoted and discharged more than a decade ago.

A day after he killed six worshippers at the suburban Milwaukee temple, fragments of Page's life emerged in public records and interviews. But his motive was still largely a mystery. So far, no hate-filled manifesto has emerged, nor any angry blog or ranting Facebook entries to explain the attack.

Oak Creek Police Chief John Edwards suggested Monday that investigators might never know for certain why the lone attacker targeted a temple full of strangers.

"We have a lot of information to decipher, to put it all together before we can positively tell you what that motive is—if we can determine that," Edwards said.

Page, who was shot to death by police, joined the Army in 1992 and was discharged in 1998. He was described Monday by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a "frustrated neo-Nazi" who had long been active in the obscure underworld of white supremacist music.


Page

Page wrote frequently on white supremacist websites, describing himself as a member of the "Hammerskins Nation," a skinhead group rooted in Texas that has offshoots in Australia and Canada, according to the SITE Monitoring Service, a Maryland-based private intelligence firm that searches the Internet for terrorist and other extremist activity.

In online forums, Page promoted his music while interacting with other skinheads. He posted 250 messages on one site between March 2010 and the middle of this year, and appeared eager to recruit others. In March 2011, he advertised for a "family friendly" barbeque in North Carolina, exhorting those online to attend.

"If you are wanting to meet people, get involved and become active, then you really need to attend," he wrote, according to SITE. "Stop hiding behind the computer or making excuses."

In November, Page challenged a poster who indicated he would leave the United States if Herman Cain were elected president.

"Stand and fight, don't run," he replied.

In an April message, Page said: "Passive submission is indirect support to the oppressors. Stand up for yourself and live the 14 words," a reference to a common white supremacists mantra. Mark Potok, a senior fellow at the law center, a nonprofit civil rights organization in Montgomery, Ala., said Page played in groups whose often sinister-sounding names seemed to "reflect what he went out and actually did." The music talked about genocide against Jews and other minorities.

NASA releases low-res video of Mars rover descent

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—NASA's Curiosity rover on Monday transmitted a low-resolution video showing the last 2 1/2 minutes of its white-knuckle dive through the Mars atmosphere, giving Earthlings a sneak peek of a spacecraft landing on another world.

As thumbnails of the video flashed on a big screen on Monday, scientists and engineers at the NASA Jet Propulsion let out "oohs" and "aahs." The recording began with the protective heat shield falling away and ended with dust being kicked up as the rover was lowered by cables inside an ancient crater.

It was a sneak preview since it'll take some time before full-resolution frames are beamed back depending on other priorities.

The full video "will just be exquisite," said Michael Malin, the chief scientist of the instrument.

AP
Jennifer Trosper, Mars Science Laboratory, MSL mission manager, JPL, left, Michael Malin, principal investigator, Mars Descent Imager, center, and Joy Crisp, MSL deputy project scientist, JPL take questions during a news briefing on the last data and imagery from Sol 1 at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., Monday, Aug. 6, 2012.

NASA celebrated the precision landing of a rover on Mars and marveled over the mission's flurry of photographs—grainy, black-and-white images of Martian gravel, a mountain at sunset and, most exciting of all, the spacecraft's white-knuckle plunge through the red planet's atmosphere.

Curiosity, a roving laboratory the size of a compact car, landed right on target late Sunday night after an eight-month, 352-million-mile journey. It parked its six wheels about four miles from its ultimate science destination—Mount Sharp rising from the floor of Gale Crater near the equator.

Extraordinary efforts were needed for the landing because the rover weighs one ton, and the thin Martian atmosphere offers little friction to slow a spacecraft down. Curiosity had to go from 13,000 mph to zero in seven minutes, unfurling a parachute, then firing rockets to brake. In a Hollywood-style finish, cables delicately lowered it to the ground at 2 mph.

At the end of what NASA called "seven minutes of terror," the vehicle settled into place almost perfectly flat in the crater it was aiming for.

"We have ended one phase of the mission much to our enjoyment," mission manager Mike Watkins said. "But another part has just begun."

The nuclear-powered Curiosity will dig into the Martian surface to analyze what's there and hunt for some of the molecular building blocks of life, including carbon.

It won't start moving for a couple of weeks, because all the systems on the $2.5 billion rover have to be checked out. Color photos and panoramas will start coming in the next few days.

But first NASA had to use tiny cameras designed to spot hazards in front of Curiosity's wheels. So early images of gravel and shadows abounded. The pictures were fuzzy, but scientists were delighted.

The photos show "a new Mars we have never seen before," Watkins said. "So every one of those pictures is the most beautiful picture I have ever seen."

In one of the photos from the close-to-the-ground hazard cameras, if you squinted and looked the right way, you could see "a silhouette of Mount Sharp in the setting sun," said an excited John Grotzinger, chief mission scientist from the California Institute of Technology.

Romney trounces Obama in fundraising for 3rd month

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—Can President Barack Obama raise the money he needs to hold onto the White House?

Money wasn't supposed to be a worry for the president's campaign, which smashed fundraising records in 2008. But Mitt Romney's team has hauled in more than Obama and his allies for a third straight month, raising the once-unthinkable question.

While the race for voter support is tight, according to polls, Romney's robust fundraising and a crush of money from Republican-leaning political action committees have forced the president's campaign to spend heavily through the summer. Highlighting the challenge for Obama, Romney on Monday reported a July fundraising haul of more than $101 million along with the Republican National Committee, compared to the $75 million that Obama's campaign said it had brought in along with the Democratic National Committee.

During a fundraiser in Stamford, Conn., Obama said Romney's tax proposal would benefit the wealthy at the expense of many middle-class families. "It's like Robin Hood in reverse," he said. "It's Romney Hood." Romney campaign spokesman Ryan Williams countered that Obama was the only "candidate in this race who's going to raise taxes on the American people."

The president also warned that his campaign faced a deluge of Republican money.

"Over the course of the next three months, the other side is going to spend more money than we have ever seen on ads that basically say the same thing you've been hearing for the past three months," Obama said, then summarized their argument as "the economy is not where it needs to be and it's Obama's fault."

Before Romney's summer surge, Obama had not been outraised by an opponent since 2007.

In an email to supporters after the July numbers were announced, the Obama campaign said, "If we don't step it up, we're in trouble."

A huge spending advantage in the final months of a close election can help a campaign as it seeks to sway undecided voters.

Obama officials say they expected Romney to outraise the president through the summer and have made contingency plans if the disparity continues. Part of that planning has involved heavy spending on ads through the spring and summer in an attempt to define Romney for voters before he has access to most of his general election funds.

With the election still three months away, Obama and the DNC have spent more than $370 million since January of last year. In June, the campaign spent more than it brought in.

Seeking to keep its coffers full, the campaign has special plans for some donors who live in reliably Democratic states where the president may not visit in the midst of the campaign. They'll get a chance to fly elsewhere in the country to meet him at an event. The campaign has also been raffling off chances for smaller donors to attend meals with the president or attend events with celebrities such as actor George Clooney.

ACROSS THE NATION

Expected Loughner plea deal not certain yet

PHOENIX (AP)—Reaching a plea agreement for the suspect in the deadly Tucson, Ariz., mass shooting is just one step. On Tuesday, defense attorneys and prosecutors will need to accomplish the next: persuade U.S. District Court Judge Larry A. Burns that Jared Lee Loughner, who has been forcibly medicated at a federal prison, is no longer mentally unfit for trial. A court-appointed psychiatrist is expected to testify that Loughner is competent to enter a plea. If Burns agrees that Loughner is competent, as legal experts expect, a formal change of plea hearing will follow. That's when those in the court will hear from the 23-year-old college dropout at length for the first time, as the judge questions him about the agreement and changing his plea to guilty.

Calif. woman tries to steal newborn in tote bag

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (AP)—A woman disguised in scrubs was caught trying to steal a newborn girl from a Southern California hospital in a tote bag after sensors attached to the baby alerted employees, Garden Grove police said. Grisel Ramirez, 48, was arrested Monday at Garden Grove Medical Center after a hospital staffer stopped her from leaving with the baby, Lt. Jeff Nightengale said during a news conference. "At this point we don't have a solid reason why she stole the baby," Nightengale said.

Joplin mosque razed in fire; 2nd blaze this summer

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP)—A mosque in southwest Missouri burned to the ground early Monday in the second fire to hit the Islamic center in little more than a month, and investigators spent the day combing through the wreckage searching for evidence of arson. No injuries were reported, but the Islamic Society of Joplin's building was a total loss after the blaze, first reported at about 3:30 a.m., the Jasper County Sheriff's Office said. As of late Monday, nobody had been arrested in connection with the fire. Investigators from the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the Jasper County Sheriff's department were at the scene all day Monday, moving the rubble with a bulldozer and other equipment. A specially trained dog assisted.

Asia

Torrential rains paralyze PH capital

AP

Residents wade along a flooded area in Marikina, east of Manila, Philippines on Tuesday Aug. 7, 2012. Torrential rains pounding the Philippine capital on Tuesday paralyzed traffic as waist-deep floods triggered evacuations of tens of thousands of residents and the government suspended work in offices and schools.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Torrential rains pounding the Philippine capital on Tuesday paralyzed traffic as waist-deep floods triggered evacuations of tens of thousands of residents and the government suspended work in offices and schools.

Incessant downpours set off by the seasonal monsoon overflowed major dams and rivers in Manila and nine surrounding provinces and put authorities on alert. The death toll from last week's Typhoon Saola, which battered Manila and the northern Philippines for several days, has climbed steadily to 51.

The head of the government's rescue agency, Benito Ramos, said there were no immediate reports of new casualties early Tuesday after the rains pounded already saturated Manila for more than 24 hours.

Vehicles and even heavy trucks struggled to navigate water-clogged roads, where hundreds of thousands of commuters were stranded overnight. Many cars were stuck in the muddy waters.

The La Mesa dam, which supplies water to the capital of 12 million people, spilled excess water for a second time early Tuesday into the rivers flowing into Quezon city, a middle-class Manila suburb, as well as the neighborhoods of Malabon, Valenzuela and Caloocan, where several villages were submerged.

Along the swollen Marikina River, police were deployed to move more than 5,000 residents away from the riverbanks in what Vice Mayor Jose Cadiz said was an enforced evacuation. The operation started after the City Hall sounded the alarm bell.

The Philippine Stock Exchange in the financial district of Makati, which was also flooded, was closed Tuesday. Also closed was the U.S. Embassy along Manila Bay in the historic old city, which was drenched out last week when a storm surge pushed the water over the seawall.

"The embassy is closed today due to excessive flooding in the streets and concern for the safety of our employees and consular applicants," Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. said in an announcement.

The military, which is involved in rescue work, canceled several events due to the flooding, including an awarding of bounties to tipsters who helped troops capture al-Qaida-linked militants.

In 2009, massive flooding spawned by a typhoon devastated Manila and the surrounding areas and killed hundreds of residents in rampaging flash floods. The state weather bureau said the current flooding was not as severe but warned of more rainy days ahead.

Typhoon Saola the seventh of 20 typhoons and storms expected to batter the Philippines this year.

Nuke plant chief after tsunami: 'This is serious'

TOKYO (AP)—The command center at Japan's stricken nuclear plant shook violently when hydrogen exploded at one reactor, and the plant chief shouted, "This is serious! This is serious!" videos taken during last year's crisis reveal.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. initially refused to release the footage, but the company is now under state control and was ordered to do so. The videos, seen Monday, are mainly of teleconferences between company headquarters in Tokyo and staff at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant after the March 11, 2011, tsunami critically damaged its reactors.

In the videos, then-plant chief Masao Yoshida can be heard complaining about phone calls to the prime minister's office not getting through and expressing frustration over interference from government nuclear safety officials whose technical advice didn't fit conditions at the stricken plant.

In footage taken around 11 a.m. on March 15, Yoshida screams to utility officials: "Headquarters! This is serious, this is serious! The No. 3 unit. I think this is a hydrogen explosion. We just had an explosion."

"I can't see anything from here because of heavy smoke." In the background, officials can be heard shouting questions about radiation levels and other data. The massive earthquake and tsunami that hit northeast Japan knocked out the cooling systems that kept the reactors' nuclear material stable, causing a meltdown of the three reactors' cores, releasing large amounts of radiation.

As workers struggled to assess the situation, they fell behind media reports. A voice from an off-site emergency center says he saw the explosion on television news.

The structures housing three of the reactors suffered hydrogen explosions after gas filled the unvented buildings, and the blasts spewed radiation and delayed repair work. To try to halt the explosions, the videos show officials even considered dropping a hammer from a helicopter to make a hole in the ceiling, but they scrapped the idea because it was too dangerous.

The footage reveals communication problems between the plant and the government as well as workers' lack of knowledge of emergency procedures and delays in informing outsiders about the risks of leaking radiation.

Just after the Unit 3 explosion, plant officials and TEPCO executives discussed extensively whether to call it a hydrogen explosion. The videos also showed they failed to notify officials outside TEPCO and residents about the March 14 meltdown at another unit, No. 2, or even provide data crucial for evacuation.

Indian premier saddened by Sikh temple shooting

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's prime minister said he was shocked Monday by the shooting attack that killed six people at a Sikh house of worship in the United States, and the top Sikh cleric accused the American government of a ``security lapse."

The attack at the temple in Wisconsin on Sunday sent worshippers running for cover in what police called an act of domestic terrorism.

Small protests condemning the violence were held in Indian cities Monday and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, himself a member of the Sikh faith, called the assault a ``dastardly attack."

"That this senseless act of violence should be targeted at a place of religious worship is particularly painful," he said in a statement.

Giani Gurbachan Singh, the head priest of Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, called on Sikhs in the U.S. to adopt security measures at the U.S. temples, including installing closed-circuit cameras.

"This is a security lapse on the part of the U.S. government," he said, according to the Press Trust of India news agency. He called for prayers for the victims to be said at Sikh temples across India and ordered a Sikh delegation sent to the U.S. to investigate the attack.

The Indian government rushed its consul general from Chicago, N.J. Gangte, to Wisconsin. India's foreign minister, S.M. Krishna, said the government was awaiting the results of the U.S. investigation and he criticized the gun culture in the United States.

``The U.S. government will have to take a comprehensive look at this kind of tendency which certainly is not going to bring credit to the United States of America," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, traveling in Africa, spoke by phone Monday with her counterpart, Krishna, said State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell. He did not immediately have details of the conversation.

U.S. Ambassador to India Nancy Powell paid her respects at a Sikh temple in New Delhi and assured the worshippers there that her government stood with them. Powell expressed condolences and support for thorough investigation into "this horrific crime," Ventrell told reporters in Washington.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysian girl killed in suspected exorcism ritual

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian police say a 3-year-old girl was killed in a suspected exorcism ritual by her parents and other relatives. District police chief Azman Abdul Lah says police raided a house in northern Penang state late Sunday after receiving a distress call from a relative and found a group of eight people lying on top of the girl in a bedroom. He says the girl was lying face down under the human pile, which comprised her parents, grandmother, uncle, aunt, two cousins and their Indonesian maid. He says the room was dark and that chanting could be heard from under a blanket covering the group.

Fighting with rebels rages in southern PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Troops were pursuing a group of Muslim rebels Tuesday who attacked multiple army outposts in the southern Philippines, leaving seven people dead and paralyzing a major highway that was in the path of rebel sniper fire. More than 200 fighters from the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement launched simultaneous attacks on army camps and detachments in four towns in Maguindanao province and two outposts in North Cotabato province late Sunday. The fighting continued throughout the day Monday and into Tuesday as troops tried to track down the gunmen. The pursuit was complicated by rebel snipers taking aim at soldiers.

Vietnam donates rice to flood-stricken North Korea

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam's president said his country would donate 5,000 tons of rice to flood-stricken North Korea, Vietnamese state media reported Tuesday. The pledge was made by President Truong Tan Sang in a meeting with North Korea's visiting nominal head of state Kim Yong Nam in Hanoi on Monday, the Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan reported. Flooding in North Korea has killed 169 people since late June, while leaving 400 missing and around 212,000 homeless.

World

Survivor describes new Syria mass killing

ANADAN, Syria (AP)—The guards pulled him from his cell before dawn on Monday, bound his hands, blindfolded him and drove him to an empty lot in the Syrian city of Aleppo. They sat him in a row with 10 other captives, he said, then cocked their guns and opened fire.

"They sprayed us," recalled 21-year-old Mahmoud, the lone survivor of the latest mass killing of Syria's civil war. "The first bullet hit my chest, then one hit my foot, then my head. As soon as my head got hit, I thought, `I'm dead.'"

Reports of such killings have surfaced frequently during the 17 months of deadly violence that activists seeking to topple President Bashar Assad say has killed more than 19,000 people. But details are usually scarce—no more than activist reports or amateur videos of bloodied bodies or mass graves posted on YouTube.

Mahmoud related his grisly ordeal to The Associated Press hours after it happened. Struggling to speak, he lay in a bed in a makeshift rebel-run field hospital set up in a wedding hall in this town 13 miles (20 kilometers) north of Aleppo. Bandages covered his foot, head and chest. Plastic vines and colored lights adorned the walls of the darkened building, and two red velvet chairs once used by brides and grooms sat on a small stage.

Mahmoud gave only his first name to protect his family who still live in the area.

While his story could not be independently confirmed, Mahmoud's wounds matched his story and residents who found him and his dead colleagues corroborated certain details.

Together, they painted a picture of the summary slaying of 10 men, at least some of whom had only loose links to the armed rebels seeking to topple the regime. That story jibes with activist claims of the increasingly brutal tactics regime forces are using to try to crush the rebellion that has spread to Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

AP

Mahmoud, a 21-year-old Palestinian resident of Syria, receives treatment in a field hospital after he was found Monday, Aug. 6, 2012, with three gunshot wounds in the town of Anadan on the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria.

Syria's uprising started in March 2011 with peaceful protests calling for political reforms that were met with a fierce regime crackdown. Government brutality grew as dissent spread, and many in the opposition took up arms as the conflict morphed into a civil war.

Aleppo has been a stronghold of government support throughout the uprising, with a wealthy business class and many minority communities who fear they'll suffer if Assad falls. Until recently, the city of some 4 million people had been spared the violence that has ravaged other Syrian cities.

But during the last two weeks, rebels have been pushing into Aleppo's neighborhoods, clashing with security forces and torching police stations in a push to "liberate" the city. Syrian media has vowed the army is gearing up for a "decisive battle," while anti-regime activists have reported swelling numbers of troops and tanks on the city's edges.

The Syrian government blames the uprising on armed gangs and terrorists backed by foreign powers that seek to weaken Syria.

It was amid these tensions that Mahmoud, a Palestinian resident of Aleppo, had his fateful brush with Syrian security. On Thursday, Mahmoud said, he and a friend went to collect their paychecks from the thread factory where they work and heard clashes nearby. Soon eight men in civilian clothes stopped them and asked for their IDs and cell phones.

On Mahmoud's phone they found videos of anti-government demonstrations and messages he sent to rebels from the Free Syrian Army, asking God to protect them and make them victorious. The men threw Mahmoud and his friend in the trunk of a car and drove them to a trash dump, where they were blindfolded, bound and beaten with sticks and large rocks before being taken to a security office.

Mahmoud was locked in a crowded cell with about a dozen other men, he said. Each day, some were taken out and new ones brought in.

Aide: Syrian PM's break months in planning

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's prime minister began planning his break from the regime two months ago when Bashar Assad offered him the post and an ultimatum: Take the job or die.

The full scope of Riad Hijab's carefully executed flight to the rebel side—described by an aide who escaped with him to Jordan—reverberated Monday through Syria's leadership. Hijab became the highest-ranking government official to defect, emboldening the opposition and raising fresh questions about the regime's ability to survive the civil war.

Although Assad has been hit by a string of embarrassing defections of military and political figures, they have yet to cause visible changes in the regime's abilities on the battlefield. The loss of high-profile government officials, however, suggests fissures are reaching deeper into the ruling system and could force Assad to retreat further behind a cadre of loyalists as fighting flares on several fronts.

"Every defection is another door closed for Assad and another one open for the rebels," said Mustafa Alani, an analyst at the Gulf Research Center based in Geneva. "It may not be the tipping point for the regime, but each breakaway is another crack."

Hijab and an entourage of family members were expected to head next to the Gulf state of Qatar, a key backer of the Syrian rebels, in a further sign of the regional brinksmanship and gambits over Assad's fate. Gulf states and Turkey have strongly backed the rebel forces while Assad has counted on support from a dwindling list of allies such as Iran and Russia.

Ahmad Kassim, a senior official with the rebel Free Syrian Army, initially said Hijab defected along with three other ministers, then later said two other ministers had left. However, Hijab's spokesman, Mohammad Otari, said he fled the country alone.

Hijab's defection is a humiliating blow for Assad after a string of generals and ambassadors has peeled away. Like nearly all prominent defectors so far, Hijab is a member of Syria's majority Sunnis—the Muslim sect which forms the bedrock of the more than 17-month uprising. His break suggests that elements of the Sunni elite—long a pillar of Assad's rule—could be growing uneasy with the relentless bloodshed and the hardline policies of Assad's minority Alawite community, which dominates the regime's inner circle. The Alawite sect is an offshoot of Shiite Islam. In Washington, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said "the Assad regime is crumbling from within" and predicted "Assad's days are numbered." Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to arrive in Turkey later this week for meetings on Syria.

French Foreign Minister cited Hijab's break as evidence "of a regime that's losing support through its choice of armed violence" in a conflict that has claimed at least 19,000 lives. A statement from French President Francois Hollande said the country was dispatching military surgeons to the Syria-Jordan border, where more than 120,000 Syrian refugees have crossed since the conflict began.

Egypt hunts Sinai militants after soldiers killed

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—Egypt vowed Monday to take on Islamist militants who have turned the Sinai peninsula into a lawless haven and are suspected of killing 16 Egyptian troops as the fighters were en route to a failed assault on neighboring Israel.

But the goal of reining in jihadists in Sinai is complicated by limits on military activity in the area under the 1979 peace treaty with Israel and by tensions between Egypt's Islamist President Mohammed Morsi and the country's powerful military.

"The armed forces have been careful in the past months and during the events of the revolution not to shed Egyptian blood," said a statement by the military. "But the group that staged this attack is considered by the armed forces as enemies of the nation who must be dealt with by force." Morsi, who is enmeshed in a power struggle with the military leadership, pledged he would make the killers pay for their crime and would restore security to Sinai, home to several of the most popular Red Sea resorts in Egypt.

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who visited Egypt last week and met with its new leaders, said the U.S. had concerns about security threats in Sinai. Egypt has seen a sharp deterioration in security throughout the country since the uprising that ousted Hosni Mubarak in February 2011 and drove the hated police force from the streets. But even before the uprising, there was rampant lawlessness in Sinai.

The security problems stem from resentment among the native Bedouins over what they see as the police heavy-handedness and the lack of adequate government services. Security officials there say Islamists have forged alliances with disgruntled Bedouins.

Some Sinai Bedouins make a living out of growing illicit drugs, trafficking in black African migrants seeking a better life in Israel or supplying Gaza's merchants with goods through a network of secret tunnels running under the Egypt-Gaza border. A massive flow of smuggled arms from Libya, including heavy machine guns, RPGs and anti-aircraft guns, are making their way into the hands of militant groups operating in Sinai.

Like Egypt's enormous economic, social and political problems, the security crisis has been left to fester over the last 18 months while the military rulers who took power from Mubarak faced off against Islamists led by the Muslim Brotherhood who won both parliamentary and presidential elections in the transition period.

Adding to the complexities of escalating violence in Sinai are Egypt's fluctuating ties with the Islamist-ruled Gaza Strip, which also borders the peninsula. Mubarak, who repressed the Muslim Brotherhood, helped Israel enforce a blockade on Gaza. But Morsi and the Brotherhood have warmed ties with the Palestinian territory.

The Egyptian military claimed the attackers had the help of Palestinian militants, saying "elements from the Gaza Strip" aided them by shelling the Egyptian-Israeli border crossing with mortars as the attack was taking place.

WORLD BRIEFS

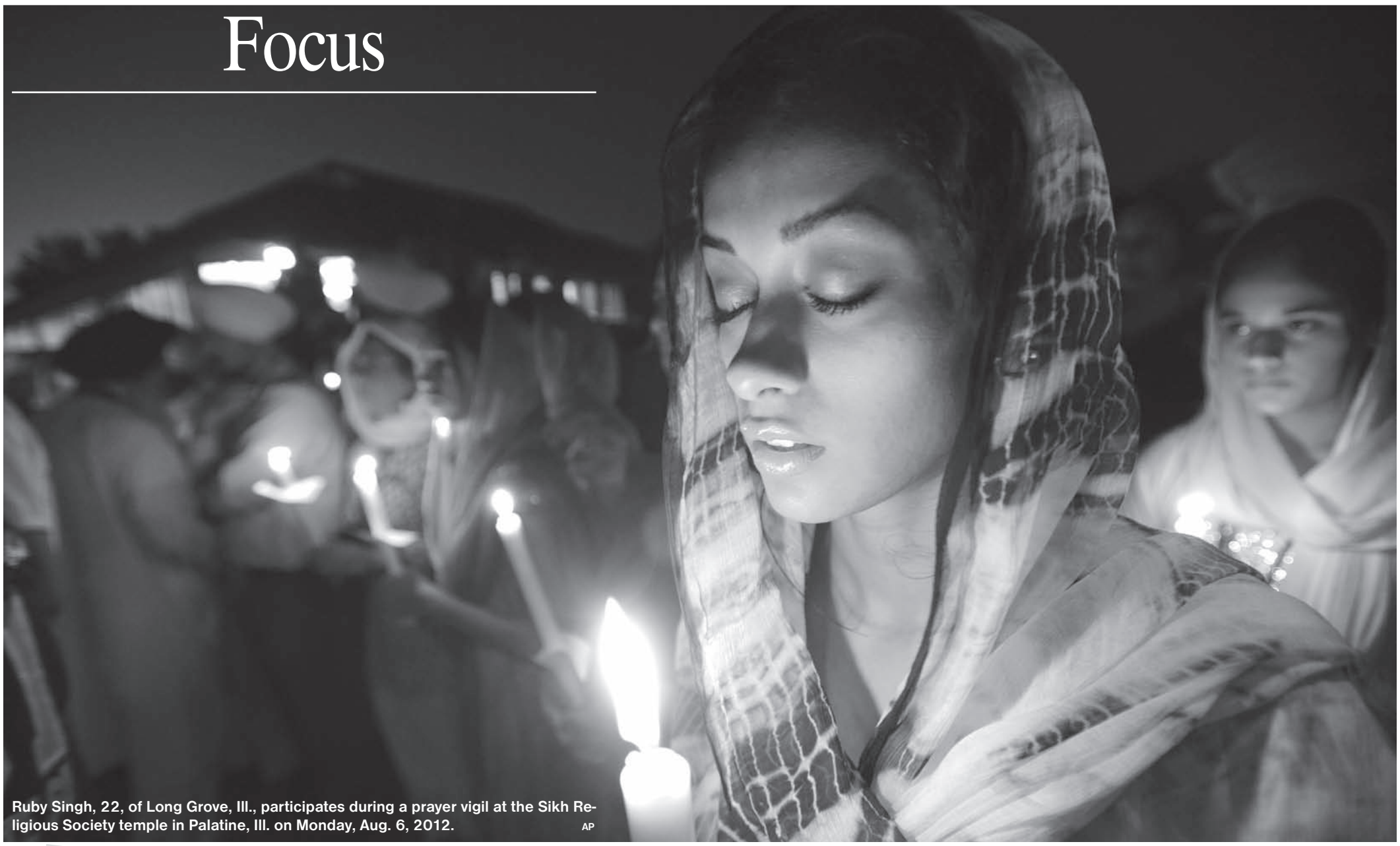
Some evacuations as storm heads by Honduras coast

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Tropical Storm Ernesto moved closer to the Central American coast Monday night as authorities in Nicaragua moved some people from low-lying areas and Honduras considered evacuations. With Ernesto predicted to stay at sea while passing along Honduras' northern coast, Honduran authorities were monitoring the storm and there were no immediate plans to evacuate people, said Roberto Diaz, operations chief of the country's Contingencies Commission. "We don't think is necessary to evacuate people at this point," Diaz said. "We don't want to create collective panic ... and we think that ordering an evacuation would create hysteria that would affect the population more than the storm itself."

Venezuelan charged in diplomat's killing in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenyan authorities on Monday charged the first secretary of Venezuela's embassy with the murder of that country's acting ambassador to Kenya in what police believe was a killing motivated by a battle over embassy leadership. Dwight Sagaray was charged in court with the murder of acting Venezuelan Ambassador Olga Fonseca. He pleaded not guilty. Prosecutor Tabitha Ouya also charged Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Hassan, Sagaray's friend and an alleged co-conspirator who has gone into hiding, with Fonseca's murder.

Focus



Ruby Singh, 22, of Long Grove, Ill., participates during a prayer vigil at the Sikh Religious Society temple in Palatine, Ill. on Monday, Aug. 6, 2012. AP

American Sikhs

a small, misunderstood community

By RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

Ever since they arrived in the U.S. as farmers and lumber mill workers in the late 19th century, Sikhs have struggled with how little Americans knew about the faith.

In 1907, a mob in Bellingham, Wash., who called Sikhs "the Hindus," ran them out of town. (Bellingham officials apologized formally 100 years later.)

Over time, they established themselves in the United States with major temples from Boston to California. Still, they remained a small, often misunderstood community, readily identifiable by their turbans. During the 1970s Iranian hostage crisis, Americans often mistook Sikhs for Iranians. Vandals attacked some temples after the Oklahoma City bombing, committed by white U.S. Army veteran Timothy McVeigh.

So when the Sept. 11 attacks occurred, the Sikh community immediately began organizing, working closely with U.S. Arabs and Muslims on domestic anti-terror policies that respect civil rights.

"When you walk out, all eyes are on you. You get used to it, but it's tough," said Vishavjit Singh, a Sikh software engineer from White Plains, N.Y. "I've had people calling me `Osama' and saying, `Go back home.'"

The massacre Sunday at the suburban Milwaukee Sikh temple left six Sikhs dead and several people wounded, including a police officer who responded to the scene. Authorities have identified the gunman as Wade Michael Page, a 40-year-old Army veteran described by civil rights groups as a neo-Nazi and white supremacist. Police have called the attack Sunday an act of domestic terrorism.

For Sikhs, the attack was the latest—and worst—of a string of horrific assaults on their community. Many of the recent attacks have been outright hate crimes. Others remain unsolved.

Just four days after the 2001 attacks, Balbir Singh Sodhi, a gas station owner in Mesa, Ariz., was shot and killed by a man who mistook him for a Muslim and was seeking revenge. Last year, a New York City subway worker and Sikh, 30-year-old Jiwan Singh, was assaulted on a train and accused of being related to Osama bin Laden. His son had been attacked two years earlier. In Elk Grove, Calif., a Sacramento suburb, two Sikh men were fatally shot last year during an afternoon walk. No one has been charged with the crimes.

Sikhs leave their hair uncut and covered by a turban as outward demonstrations of and reminders of their faith. For the same reasons they carry a small ceremonial dagger, called a kirpan.

"They are identifiable. Both Muslims and Sikhs are visible minorities," said Diana Eck, a Harvard University professor and director of The Pluralism Project. "Both have been subject to misapprehension and targeting as a result of ignorance and prejudice."

As early as the 1990s, Sikhs in Washington and other major cities began organizing, building relationships with leaders of other faiths, Eck said. But after the Sept. 11 attacks, Sikhs around the country reached out with more urgency. Like American Muslims, they organized open houses at their places of worship.

The Sikh Coalition, a New York-based civil rights group, formed about one month after the attacks from a volunteer effort to protect members of the community. The group has since reported more than 700 hate crimes and has fielded hundreds of complaints about unfair treatment at airports. In April, the coalition unveiled a free mobile application, FlyRights, which allows travelers of all backgrounds to complain immediately to the government if they feel they've been treated unfairly by airport screeners.

The coalition and another group, the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, have been taking on cases of Sikhs who say they have been pressured by employers to stop wearing their turbans on the job. In June, the White House held what is believed to be the first briefing on Sikh civil rights.

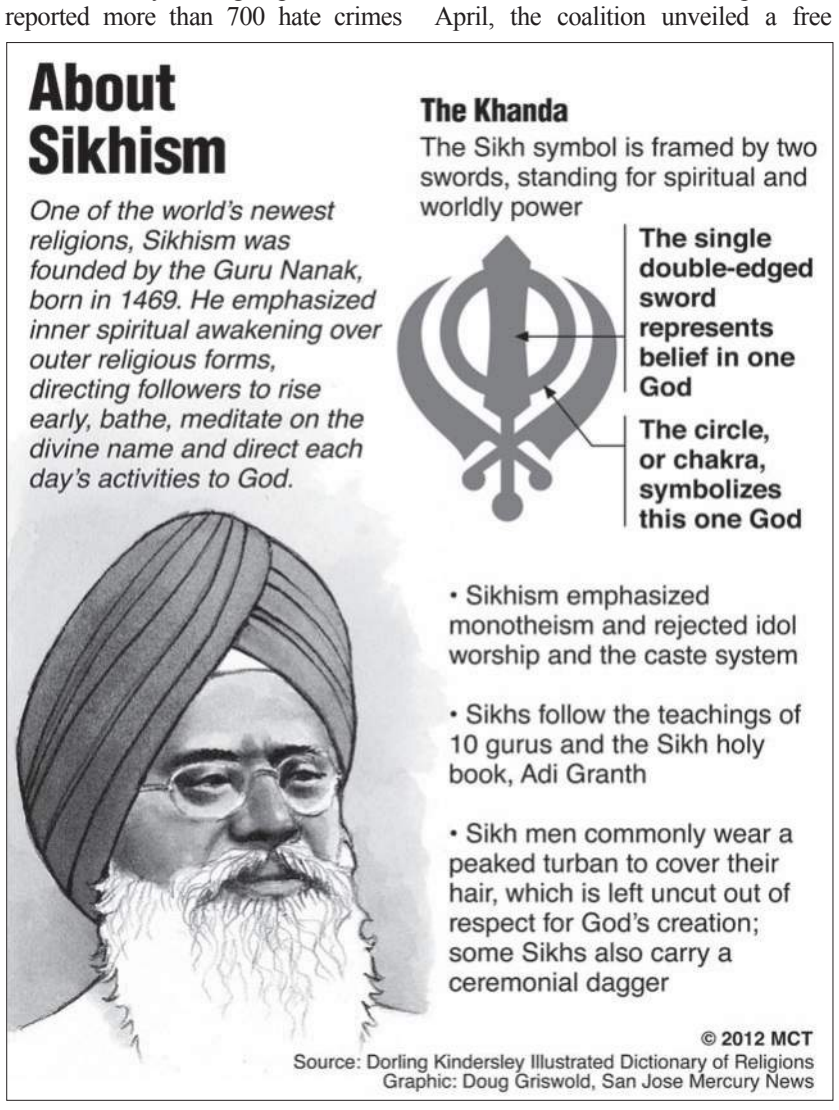
It's a significant effort for a group that remains a tiny minority in the United States. Of the 27 million Sikhs worldwide, the majority live in India, where the religion was established in the 15th century.

The exact number of Sikhs living in America is not known. Estimates range from 200,000 to 500,000. Many left their homes in the agricultural Punjab province, known as the breadbasket of India, and arrived first in the West and Pacific Northwest in the late 1800s.

The first major temple was built in 1912 around Stockton, Calif., but like other immigrants, Sikhs were not allowed to bring their spouses to the United States, which restricted their numbers. When President Lyndon Johnson eased immigration quotas in the 1960s, Sikhs began arriving in larger numbers with their families. Temples were built around Boston, Chicago and other parts of California.

Yet, no matter how established they felt in the United States, many Sikhs felt misunderstood. In recent years, many young Sikhs have cut their hair or worn baseball caps instead of turbans to avoid standing out. Vishavjit Singh, cut his hair for years, but has returned to the faith and now wears a turban.

"What is amazing, even 10 years, 11 years after 9/11, most Americans don't know who Sikhs are," Singh said. "That scares me."


About Sikhism
One of the world's newest religions, Sikhism was founded by the Guru Nanak, born in 1469. He emphasized inner spiritual awakening over outer religious forms, directing followers to rise early, bathe, meditate on the divine name and direct each day's activities to God.
The Khanda
The Sikh symbol is framed by two swords, standing for spiritual and worldly power
The single double-edged sword represents belief in one God
The circle, or chakra, symbolizes this one God
• Sikhism emphasized monotheism and rejected idol worship and the caste system
• Sikhs follow the teachings of 10 gurus and the Sikh holy book, Adi Granth
• Sikh men commonly wear a peaked turban to cover their hair, which is left uncut out of respect for God's creation; some Sikhs also carry a ceremonial dagger
© 2012 MCT
Source: Dorling Kindersley Illustrated Dictionary of Religions
Graphic: Doug Griswold, San Jose Mercury News

Campus Life

Elite colleges transform online higher education

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—When the Massachusetts Institute of Technology offered its first free online course this spring, Ashwith Rego jumped at the chance to learn from some of the world's leading researchers—without leaving his home in India.

"I never imagined that I would be taught by professors from MIT, let alone for free," said the 24-year-old engineer who works in Bangalore.

From Harvard to Stanford, a growing number of elite universities are throwing open their digital doors to the masses. They're offering their most popular courses online for no charge, allowing anyone with an Internet connection to learn from world-renowned scholars and scientists.

Many colleges have offered Web-based courses for years, but the participation of top-tier research universities marks a major milestone in the expansion of digital learning.

The proliferation of so-called massive open online courses, or MOOCs, has the potential to transform higher education at a time when colleges and universities are grappling with shrinking budgets, rising costs and protests over soaring tuition and student debt.

Supporters say these online courses can lower teaching costs, improve learning online and on campus, and significantly expand access to higher education, which could fuel technological innovation and economic growth.

"It holds the potential for serving many, many hundreds of thousands of students in a way we simply cannot today," said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education.

Last month, a dozen major research universities announced they would begin offering courses on the online learning platform Coursera, joining Stanford and Princeton universities and the universities of Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The University of California, Berkeley said it would start making online courses available this fall through edX, a competing Web portal launched in May by Harvard University and MIT with $60 million in funding from the two schools.

AP

In this Aug. 2, 2012 photo, Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller, Stanford University computer science professors who started Coursera, pose for a photo at the Coursera office in Mountain View, Calif. This month Coursera announced that a dozen top research campuses have joined Stanford and Princeton universities in offering online courses through its online platform.

"I believe it will ultimately revolutionize education," said UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau.

So far students can't earn college credit for the courses, but that hasn't dampened demand.

EdX officials say 154,000 students from more than 160 countries registered for MIT's first online course, "Circuits and Electronics," this past spring. Only about 7,100 students passed the course, but that's still a lot more than can fit in a lecture hall.

More than 120 universities have expressed interest in joining the consortium, said edX President Anant Agarwal, who heads MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

"Our goal is to reinvent education," said Agarwal, who created the first MITx course. "It will dramatically improve the quality, efficiency and scale of learning worldwide and on our campuses."

So far, the new online courses are attracting mostly older workers who want to upgrade their skills and knowledge, but may not have the time or money to attend classes on campus.

The new generation of online courses features interactive technology, open admissions, high-caliber curriculum and the ability to teach tens of thousands of students at once. The universities say the online courses are as rigorous as their campus counterparts.

Some schools, including the University of Washington and University of Helsinki, say they will offer college credit for Coursera courses.

If more schools follow suit, the online teaching could allow more students to attend college and graduate faster, experts say.

Besides potential cost savings, the new generation of online classes can change how students learn on campus by relieving professors of lecturing duties and freeing up more time for research and discussion with students.

"It's going to transform the work of professors," said William Tierney, a higher education expert at the University of Southern California.

But many questions remain. Are the courses rigorous enough to justify college credit? How do schools prevent cheating? Can colleges keep charging students thousands of dollars for courses they can take free online?

Some educators say these cyber courses can't replace the academic community and learning experience of a traditional campus education.

But others warn that MOOCs have the potential to undermine the finances of colleges and universities—much like how free Web content has upended newspapers, magazines and other media industries.

If students can get high-quality academic material for free, colleges and universities will be pressed to demonstrate the education value they offer beyond lectures and exams.

"I don't think you can just dismiss this," Tierney said. "People think that what happened to the newspaper industry is not going to happen to academia."

Once up and running, most courses can almost run by themselves. They typically feature short video lectures followed by quizzes that test students on the concepts they just learned. Most math and science exams can graded by computer, while students in humanities courses evaluate each other's writing assignments.

The courses run on set schedules ranging from several weeks to several months, so that students can form discussion groups and help each other with homework assignments.

"There was a tremendously vibrant online community of fellow students," said George Skelly, a Boston attorney who took the MIT electronics class this spring. "It was as if I had a thousand teaching assistants available to me instantaneously."

This year several competing online platforms have emerged and attracted elite universities eager to develop their digital learning programs.

Coursera was founded by Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller, two Stanford professors who started the platform after they taught an online computer science course that attracted more than 100,000 students last fall.

This fall Coursera will offer 116 courses from 16 universities in disciplines such as medicine, philosophy and artificial intelligence. So far about 900,000 students have enrolled.

The Mountain View-based startup has raised $16 million from Silicon Valley venture capital firms as well as $3.7 million from the California Institute of Technology and University of Pennsylvania.

While Coursera is a for-profit venture, the company remains committed to keeping the courses free, Ng said.

"If a poor kid in India cannot take the class, I think that would just be a tragedy," Ng said. "If a place like Princeton could teach millions of students, I think the world would be a better place."

Coursera is exploring ways to generate revenue, including charging students for certificates and charging employers who want to identify top students.

Faced with a shortage of engineering talent, many tech companies have already asked for introductions to students who successfully completed his online course, Ng said. Some students told him they landed new jobs after showing employers their Coursera certificates.

The Georgia Institute of Technology plans to offer five Coursera courses this fall, said Richard DeMillo, a computer science professor who heads the Center for 21st Century Universities.

"We're in the middle of a potentially groundbreaking experiment," DeMillo said. "Really big things could come out of it."

Pa. school reverses course on HIV-positive student

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania school for lower income and socially disadvantaged students said Monday it will now treat HIV-positive applicants the same as all others and has offered admission to a previously rejected Philadelphia-area teenager.

A lawyer for the boy, whose pending lawsuit against the Milton Hershey School alleges violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, said he was considering the offer.

School president Anthony Colistra issued a statement that defended the school's previous decisions regarding the HIV-positive teenager, using the same pseudonym for him as does his federal lawsuit, Abraham Smith. He said the admissions offer, and an apology, were issued to him last month.

"Although we believed that our decisions regarding Abraham Smith's application were appropriate, we acknowledge that the application of federal law to our unique residential setting was a novel and difficult issue," Colistra said. "The U.S. Department of Justice recently advised us that it disagrees with how we evaluated the risks and applied the law. We have decided to accept this guidance."

The boy's lawyer, Ronda Goldfein, said the school's actions did not end the lawsuit, and that the offer of admission for the coming year was being assessed by the rising ninth-grader.

"We're certainly delighted that the school understands their obligations under the law and intends to follow them," Goldfein said. "This case is not settled. This is one very important piece of it."

The most recent activity in the lawsuit, filed late last year in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, occurred last week when the judge scheduled a pretrial conference for September.

"We couldn't be happier that they're doing the right thing, but if you turn a blind eye to a law, you're responsible for the harm caused while you were turning that blind eye," Goldfein said.

Colistra said the private boarding school also is developing training on HIV-related issues for its employees and students.

In Washington, Justice Department spokeswoman Nanda Chitre welcomed the school's decision and noted that federal law protects people with HIV from discrimination.

Milton Hershey School officials previously said he was denied admission because a chronic communicable disease would pose a threat to the health and safety of the students.

The school is financed by a trust that holds the controlling interest in candy manufacturing giant The Hershey Co.

Life&Style

Review: Quiet 'Hope Springs' has real punch

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

Here's how surprisingly effective "Hope Springs" is: It will make you want to go home and have sex with your spouse afterward. Or at least share a longer hug or a more passionate kiss.

You don't have to be married for 31 years like the stuck-in-a-rut couple Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones play to feel inspired by the film's message about the importance of keeping your relationship alive. It sounds like a cliché because it is a cliché, and more: It's a cottage industry, one that's launched countless afternoon talk show episodes and shelf after shelf of self-help books.

And yet, despite television ads that look alternately wacky and mawkish and suggest pat, glossy superficiality, "Hope Springs" unearths some quiet and often uncomfortable truths. The first produced script from television writer and producer Vanessa Taylor ("Alias," "Game of Thrones") explores the complicated dynamics that develop over a long-term relationship with great honesty and little judgment. What looks like a standard rom-com turns into something akin to a contemporary Ingmar Bergman film.

The performances from Streep and Jones go a long way toward elevating the rather straightforward direction from David Frankel, which includes some painfully literal musical selections and a few hokey comic situations. Frankel also directed Streep in her withering, Oscar-nominated performance in "The Devil Wears Prada." But stylish magazine editor Miranda Priestly wouldn't be caught dead in the sensible ensembles that Streep's character here, Kay, wears and sells at a mall chain store for middle-aged women. Her wardrobe is one of many ways "Hope Springs" depicts a safe, suburban Midwestern life vividly and without an ounce of mocking.

Kay and her husband, Arnold, live in a comfortable home in Omaha, Neb. Their children have grown up and moved out, leaving them to settle into a drab routine. She cooks him bacon and a couple of fried eggs every morning, which he eats at the kitchen table while reading the newspaper. A quick kiss on the cheek and Arnold is off to work at an accounting firm where he's one of the partners. When he comes home at night, some sort of meat-and-potatoes dinner is waiting for him. Afterward, she cleans up while he dozes off in the recliner watching The Golf Channel. Then they head upstairs to go to sleep—in their separate bedrooms.

AP

This film image released by Columbia Pictures shows Meryl Streep as Kay Soames, left, and Tommy Lee Jones as Arnold Soames in a scene from "Hope Springs."

And it's been this way for years.

Tired of the sexless complacency, Kay insists one day that she and Arnold take part in an intense, one-week couples' therapy session. In Maine. Arnold grudgingly agrees to join her in the idyllic New England hamlet of Great Hope Springs, but once he sits down on the couch, it takes a while for him even to consider opening up to the soft-spoken but persistent Dr. Bernard Feld (Steve Carell, playing a solid straight man to allow the two stars to stand out).

The therapy scenes are just exquisitely acted and paced, with body language and slight facial gestures that speak volumes. The silences provide tension and intimacy, but once these two do begin answering questions, they reveal regrets and resentments, yearnings and fantasies they'd never dared to speak aloud before.

Arnold is perpetually exasperated and emotionally closed-off but he's convinced himself he's content; Jones is doing his patented, humorously gruff persona but with some eventual vulnerability that provides shading and depth. He's great here. And Streep is just ... well, she's Meryl Streep. Lovely, slightly naive and goofy and always so accessible, she never has a moment that feels forced or false. Kay longs to be loved so desperately, your heart just aches for her—and yet, she also may bear much of the blame for the state of her marriage.

Without a single special effect or explosion, "Hope Springs" is the unexpected summer movie with real punch.

"Hope Springs," a Columbia Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for mature thematic content involving sexuality. Running time: 99 minutes. Three stars out of four.

'Hairspray' co-writer Mark O'Donnell dies at 58

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark O'Donnell, the Tony Award-winning writer behind such quirky and clever Broadway shows as "Hairspray and "Cry-Baby," died Monday, his agent said. He was 58.

Jack Tantleff, O'Donnell's agent at the Paradigm agency, said the writer collapsed in the lobby of his apartment complex on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

"He was a huge talent, and a warm, witty and wonderful man who marched to his own drummer," Tantleff said.

O'Donnell won the 2003 Tony for best book of a musical for co-writing "Hairspray" with Thomas Meehan, and the pair earned Tony nominations in 2008 for doing the same for another John Waters work, "Cry-Baby."

O'Donnell was picked to help write the musical version of the 1988 Waters movie "Hairspray" because producer Margo Lion felt he "could appreciate Waters' voice but was idiosyncratic enough to inject his own personality into the piece."

The story centers on an overweight white teenager who lives to dance on "The Corny Collins Show," Baltimore's version of "American Bandstand." She also wants to integrate its all-white environs, and, along the way, be accepted for her full-figured self.

"The structure I had in mind was: Girl does Mash Potato, girl charms Baltimore, girl integrates nation," O'Donnell told The Associated Press in 2002. "My script was like a great Mad magazine article."

AP

In this June 8, 2003 file photo, Thomas Meehan, left, and Mark O'Donnell pose with their Tony awards for best book of a Musical for "Hairspray" during the 57th Annual Tony Awards at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

His other plays include "That's It, Folks!" "Fables for Friends," "The Nice and the Nasty," "Strangers on Earth," "Vertigo Park" and the musical "Tots in Tinseltown."

He wrote two novels, "Getting Over Homer" and "Let Nothing You Dismay," and published two collections of comic stories, "Elementary Education" and "Vertigo Park and Other Tales."

He also adapted Georges Feydeau's "Private Fittings" for the La Jolla Playhouse in California and a symphonic version of "Pyramus and Thisbe" for the Kennedy Center.

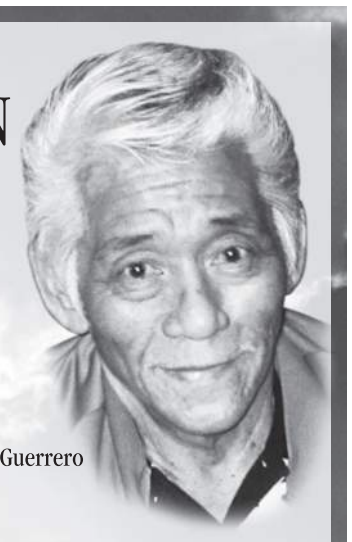
He received a Guggenheim Fellowship and the George S. Kaufman Award.

An autopsy is scheduled for Tuesday.

In Celebration of His New Life

JOAQUIN SANTOS AGUON

Better Known As *"Akin Mantika"*



Born to Life on August 20th 1941 and was
called to rest in the Grace of our Lord on August 1st 2012

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Wife: Joaquina S. Aguon
Mother: Rosa Santa Maria Santos Aguon
Father: Antonio Mafanas Aguon
Brother/Sister: Juan S. Aguon, Julia A. Cepeda
Parents in Law: Maria Hocog Deleon Guerrero & Jose Atalig Deleon Guerrero
Great Granddaughter: Angel Franette Aguon Faisao

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Children/Spouse: **Alan** S. Aguon and Children(Grand Child), **Antoniette** Jorlyn S. Aguon and Children (Grand Children), **Joaquin** S. Aguon Jr., **Tricia** Marie S. Aguon & Florencio George Falig and Children (Grand Children), **Rose** A and Derek Hocog and Children, **Edwin** Joseph S. Aguon & Nadine Marie K. Aquino and Children, **Lana** Marie Aguon & George Eperiam and Children, **Vincent** Anthony S. Aguon & Thesia Marie DLC Aguon and Children, **Joshua** S. Aguon & Margo Aldan, **Josef** Joachim S. Aguon & Rosalia Aldan and Child, **Joaqisha** Kiana S. Aguon, **Kaywin** Joaquin S. Aguon, **Elijah** Keanue S. Aguon

Reared Children: Lucian I. George, Patrick I. George, Cristino I. George, Jasmer DLC Koshiro
Brothers & Sisters: †Juan S. Aguon & Family, †Julia A. Cepeda & Family, Santiago S. Aguon & Family, Jose S. Aguon & Family, Ramon S. Aguon & Family, Consolacion S. Aguon & Family, Dorotheo S. Aguon & Family
Brother & Sisters In-laws: Jose Santos & Family, †Gregoria Malens & Family, Elphidia Kosam & Family, Lorenza Monkeya & Family, Rita Fitipol & Family, Carmen Fitipol & Family

He is also survived by and will be missed by his numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, God children & Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 A.M., Rosary at 7:00 P.M., at San Jose Church.

On Thursday, August 09, 2012 his remains will leave CHC Morgue at 7:30 a.m. and will be escorted to San Jose Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Children & Families

DreamWorks to make 'Kung Fu Panda 3' in China

BEIJING (AP)—DreamWorks Animation and Chinese partners announced plans Tuesday to co-produce the next "Kung Fu Panda" movie and develop an entertainment district in Shanghai, expanding Hollywood's fast-growing ties to China.

Hollywood studios have announced a flurry of deals with local partners to gain access to Chinese financing and a government-controlled film market that is growing strongly at a time of weak ticket sales in the United States and Europe.

"Kung Fu Panda 3" will be produced in China and released in 2016, according to DreamWorks Animation SKG Ltd. and its state-owned local partners—China Media Capital, Shanghai Media Group and Shanghai Alliance Investment.

They said the movie will be produced by a new joint venture, Shanghai Oriental DreamWorks Film & Television Technology Co. DreamWorks will own 45 percent of the company and the Chinese partners will hold stakes totaling 55 percent.

Oriental DreamWorks plans to release one to three films per year and employ as many as 2,000 production professionals, the partners said. They said it aims to become the largest animation production base in China and also will explore opportunities in online games, musicals and consumer products.

The planned entertainment district in Shanghai's Xuhui area, with investment of more than 20 billion yuan ($3.2 billion), will include cinemas, theaters, restaurants and tourist attractions and is due to open in 2016, the partners said.

They said the project is modeled on London's West End and Broadway in New York City.

China Media Capital, whose owners include state-run China Development Bank, owns a controlling stake in News Corp.'s China television channels and other assets. Shanghai Media Group operates television and radio broadcasters. Shanghai Alliance Investment is an arm of the Shanghai government.

Other studios including DreamWorks rival Walt Disney Co. have announced co-production deals in China and are adding Chinese elements to films to appeal to the growing local audience.

China's box office sales rose by one-third last year to $2 billion while revenue in North America, though still far larger at $10.2 billion, has fallen for two straight years.

Disney said in April the third installment in its "Iron Man" franchise would be co-produced with Beijing-based DMG Entertainment. DMG co-produced the thriller "Looper," starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Bruce Willis and Emily Blunt. It includes scenes filmed in Shanghai.

China's communist leaders want to build a globally competitive film industry and hope their studios can learn from Hollywood partners. They are trying to attract foreign studios to form joint ventures by promising more market access and a bigger share of ticket sales.

China has dozens of small, mostly anonymous companies that do animation work outsourced by foreign film studios and video game companies. Beijing wants to capture more of the profits by nurturing the growth of studios that can create their own popular characters and movie franchises.

The "Kung Fu Panda" movies, about a bumbling panda who becomes a martial arts hero, are hugely popular in China. They prompted debate about why a Hollywood studio was more successful than the country's own studios at creating a successful movie based on Chinese themes.

A key complaint among Chinese filmmakers is extensive government censorship and efforts to influence the content of movies.

Last year, Legendary Entertainment, producer of hits including "The Dark Knight," formed Legendary East with Chinese studio Huayi Brothers Media Corp. It plans one to two movies per year, mainly in English and based on Chinese themes.

Another studio, Relativity Media, said last year it would make movies with two Chinese partners for global audiences and distribute movies in China.

Foreign studios hope partnering with local companies will increase their access to China's tightly controlled film market.

For the past decade, China's state-run film distributors have allowed in only 20 foreign films per year for national distribution. The foreign share of ticket sales is limited to a range of 13.5 to 17.5 percent.

In March, the government announced it will allow in an additional 14 foreign films if they are made in 3-D or for the big-screen Imax format. It raised the foreign share of ticket sales to 25 percent.

AP

In this photo taken on June 15, 2011, a woman walks past movie posters of Hollywood movies "Kung Fu Panda 2," left, and China's propaganda film "Beginning of the Great Revival" on display side by side outside a cinema in Beijing.

London Olympics huge boost to NBC's 'Today' show

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC's hopes that the London Olympics would boost the struggling "Today" show have been rewarded and then some.

The once-dominant morning news show beat ABC's "Good Morning America" by an average of 1.6 million viewers each day last week, the Nielsen ratings company said Monday. That's the most dominant week for "Today" since the Vancouver Olympics in 2010.

It meant some 2 million viewers switched channels in the morning from the previous week, a startling reversal for a time of day when habits are hard to break. "Good Morning America" had won each of the previous five weeks, and its margin of 543,000 viewers over "Today" the week before the Olympics was the ABC show's largest in 17 years.

NBC has sent its morning show team to London for broadcasts heavy on Olympic content and has reaped the benefits with the Games proving more popular in the United States than most observers expected.

NBC also is using the Olympic telecasts to introduce Savannah Guthrie to viewers. Guthrie took over from Ann Curry a month ago as co-host with Matt Lauer and, until London, viewers had been cold to the change.

Lauer called the Olympics, which have featured big medal hauls for U.S. swimmers Michael Phelps and Missy Franklin and gold for the U.S. women's gymnastics team, "a nice shot in the arm."

"It's been a little turbulent as of late," he said from London. "I think that might be the understatement of the year, but I think on a daily basis we try not to concentrate on that day's ratings. We try to concentrate on that day's show. We can do a fantastic show, and if the next day we wake up and the ratings don't quite correspond, it doesn't make us feel worse about the show we did. And the opposite is true."

Lauer said he expected that ratings improvement would come.

"At the moment, we've got a brand new team, we're getting to know each other and we're not looking at tomorrow, we're looking down the road," he said.

On the "Today" set people still joke around about flubbing Guthrie's name as Stephanie or Susannah, Al Roker said. But Guthrie is a good sport about it, he said.

Guthrie said the London experience has exceeded her expectations.

"It's been full of energy, full of enthusiasm," she said. "It's impossible not to get caught up in the sports that are going on, the athletes' stories, and it's a great time for all of us to be together, too."

Curry's predecessor, Meredith Vieira, has accompanied the "Today" team to London. Curry is expected on Thursday to make her first reappearance on the show since her tearful departure.

Last Friday, when the guests included Olympic gymnastics champion Gabby Douglas, "Today" had 6.5 million viewers to the 4.1 million people who watched "Good Morning America." That was the largest single-day margin of victory for "Today" since the Beijing Olympics four years ago, Nielsen said.

"Good Morning America" noted that despite last week's viewership switchover, its show still had more viewers than it did four years ago during the Beijing Olympics.

All-star lineup joins 'A Very Special Christmas'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Christina Aguilera, Michael Buble, Dave Matthews and Train are among the acts helping Special Olympics celebrate the 25th anniversary of its "A Very Special Christmas" album series.

Two albums will be released Oct. 16 to celebrate the partnership, which has raised more than $100 million for Special Olympics. "A Very Special Christmas 25th Anniversary" will be released on Big Machine Records and Word Records will issue "A Very Special Christmas: Bringing Peace on Earth."

Train lead singer Pat Monahan attended a press conference at Blackbird Studios in Nashville Monday to announce the albums, along with Special Olympics Chairman and CEO Tim Shriver, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and Christian artist Francesca Battistelli. Several Special Olympics athletes were on hand, as well.

Monahan called it an honor to be a part of the series and said the members of Train have been purchasing the albums individually for a long time.

"This has been the Christmas album that we all look at each year and go, `How come we're not on it?' Now we get to say that we're on it," he said in an interview.

The members of Train immediately headed downstairs into a studio to record a holiday classic for the album.

"Trying to do `Joy to the World' in a way that hasn't been heard before is probably the most difficult task that we've got this year," Monahan said. "But we're going to do our best, and maybe mash it together with a Train song and make it a little fun for everybody."

Shriver said the albums have become the largest single source of funding for the Special Olympics and its athletes.

"This 25th anniversary will be the biggest year in the history of this series," he said. "This is music that continues to sell. People buy it. They enjoy it. They think it's just great Christmas music, but it's more than that. It's changing the world."

Other artists involved in the project include Jason Mraz, Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Rascal Flatts, The Band Perry, Cheap Trick, Natalie Grant, Sidewalk Prophets and Jamie Grace.

AP

In this May 21, 2011 file photo, Patrick Monahan of the rock group Train performs at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

Actor Michael Clarke Duncan remains hospitalized

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Green Mile" star Michael Clarke Duncan remains hospitalized in Los Angeles more than three weeks after suffering a heart attack.

Publicist Joy Fehily said in a brief email statement Monday that the 54-year-old actor "was just moved from the intensive care unit, but remains hospitalized" following his July 13 heart attack.

"His family are firm believers in the power of prayer and have asked that you keep him in yours during this time," the statement said. No further information was available on Duncan's condition.

Besides "The Green Mile," the actor's film credits include "The Scorpion King," "Armageddon," "Breakfast of Champions," "The Whole Nine Yards" and "Sin City."

This June 27, 2010 file photo shows actor Michael Clarke Duncan at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

Sharon Osbourne in reality show battle with NBC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC defended itself Monday against Sharon Osbourne's claim the network discriminated against her afflicted son in casting a new reality show.

Osbourne

The "America's Got Talent" judge told The New York Post that she's quitting the show because NBC fired her son, Jack Osbourne, by email two days before he was to co-star on the reality show "Stars Earn Stripes."

Jack Osbourne, 26, was diagnosed recently with multiple sclerosis.

In a statement Monday, NBC Entertainment Chairman Bob Greenblatt said the network "does not discriminate on any basis."

All potential contestants for "Stars Earn Stripes," which puts celebrities through arduous military-style exercises, had to undergo medical vetting, Greenblatt said. He cited medical privacy in declining to discuss Jack Osbourne specifically.

"Stars Earns Stripes," which debuts Aug. 13, requires "dangerous water stunts, strenuous physical activity, and uses live ammunition," Greenblatt said.

Jack Osbourne was offered two alternative roles on the show but declined both, said Greenblatt, who made an effort to smooth things over with the Osbourne clan, including patriarch-rocker Ozzy Osbourne.

"We have the deepest affection for Sharon Osbourne and consider her to be part of the NBC family," Greenblatt said. "And our hearts go out to her, Ozzy, Jack and his family at this time."

NBC declined further comment. Sharon Osbourne's publicist didn't respond to a request for comment.

A person close to the production said that, contrary to Sharon Osbourne's claim that Jack Osbourne was abruptly fired, NBC hadn't signed him to a contract and had tried to call Sharon Osbourne several weeks beforehand to discuss why her son wouldn't be on the show.

An email was sent after she didn't respond, said the person, who was not authorized to comment on the issue and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sharon Osbourne had tweeted two weeks ago that she wanted to leave "America's Got Talent," but gave no explanation other than saying it wasn't an issue of money. She remains under contract with the talent contest, the summer's top-rated series.

John C McGinley of 'Scrubs' fame comes to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—John C. McGinley, who played a loveable but scary doctor in the TV show "Scrubs," is joining Broadway's "Glengarry Glen Ross" opposite Al Pacino.

Producers of the David Mamet revival said Monday that McGinley will play Dave Moss alongside Pacino, Bobby Cannevale, David Harbour and Jeremy Shamos.

The revival marks the 30th anniversary of David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about the backbiting world of salesmen.

McGinley was last on Broadway in "Requiem for a Heavyweight" in 1985 and his film credits include "Wall Street," "Talk Radio," "Born on the Fourth of July," "Nixon" and "Any Given Sunday."

Previews of "Glengarry Glen Ross" will start on Oct. 16 at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre and an opening night has been set for Nov. 11.

AP

This Dec. 9, 2008 file photo shows actor John C. McGinley at the premiere of the film "Gran Turino" at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, Calif.

AP

In this Jan. 31, 2012 file image originally released by NBC shows first lady Michelle Obama speaking with host Jay Leno during an appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," in Burbank, Calif.

Michelle Obama heads back to Leno's stage

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Michelle Obama is headed back to Jay Leno's stage.

NBC announced Monday that the first lady will make her third appearance on "The Tonight Show" on Aug. 13 to talk about the London Olympics and life with President Barack Obama and their children at the White House.

On her last stopover in January, the first lady promoted her "Let's Move!" campaign to get kids excited about fitness and healthy eating habits.

She managed to convince vegetable-hating Leno to nibble on apples, sweet potato fries and a pizza made with eggplant, green peppers and zucchini.

In London, she played a little tennis with kids, handed out some hugs and posed for photos with strapping athletes as she formally began her stint leading the U.S. Olympics delegation.

Son of John Mellencamp walks on to Duke team

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—This Duke walk-on will try to help the Blue Devils R-O-C-K in the ACC.

Duke began practice Monday with freshman Hud Mellencamp—the son of rocker John Mellencamp—on its roster.

Mellencamp was homeschooled and did not play high school football, but was an accomplished boxer in Indiana. The 5-foot-11, 165-pound defensive back was issued jersey No. 17.

Coach David Cutcliffe calls him "a pretty courageous young man" who is "trying to do something he's never done before."

Cutcliffe said Mellencamp had already been accepted to Duke and said "this was something the youngster wanted to try." He says the plan is to shield Mellencamp from the media and "try to keep him back behind the scenes" while taking things slowly because of his lack of football experience.

Man who's not in the mood may soon be out of a partner

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 24-year-old man with a good job, a good relationship, a level head on my shoulders and a great family. Life has had its ups and downs, but I have always been optimistic and appreciative of my blessings.

My issue is with me. After 10 months or so of dating a woman, I always lose my physical attraction to her. It has been my downfall in both of my previous relationships. My current relationship is with a woman I should marry. She's gorgeous, intelligent, and we have an incredible level of communication. I could not imagine a better partner. But my lack of desire to have a constant physical relationship is driving her away.

I occasionally initiate, but I'm usually not in the mood. I'd be happy with every week or every other week, but I'm only 24. Is this crazy? I know I'm making her feel unwanted, and it has become a sensitive subject for me.

Is this a sign that I'm not supposed to be in this relationship? Other women excite me, but I have no desire to be with someone else. What are your thoughts on this?

CONFUSED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CONFUSED: Talk about this with your doctor and have your hormone levels checked. If they are where they should be, it may be that you simply have a low sex drive. Either that, or you crave what no one woman can give any man, and that's variety.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Last year I lost someone very dear to me, my 5-year-old brother. I never knew a child who died before, but when it's your little brother it makes it worse.

The thing is, I'm the oldest and I have always tried to hide my emotions. I try to act like everything is OK because I don't want people to know I'm falling apart. It's bad enough for my mom and my grandparents. I don't want to make it worse.

People say God only gives you what you can handle, but how are you supposed to handle an innocent child's death?

GRIEVING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR GRIEVING: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. A healthy way to deal with the emotions you are experiencing is to talk about them. Ideally, it would be with your parents. However, because you're afraid it will be too painful for them, you need to find another adult with whom you can vent.

It is important to let the feelings you're bottling up come out because they are normal. Releasing them will help ease your pain. A counselor at school can help, or if you'd be more comfortable with someone else, talk to your clergyperson.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You frequently recommend that readers seek therapy. I've been in therapy for eight years and see very little progress. Do you have any statistics that prove how helpful therapy actually is?

SKEPTICAL IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR SKEPTICAL: I don't have any statistics—but I do have some advice for you: CHANGE THERAPISTS! After eight years and little progress, you're with the wrong person.

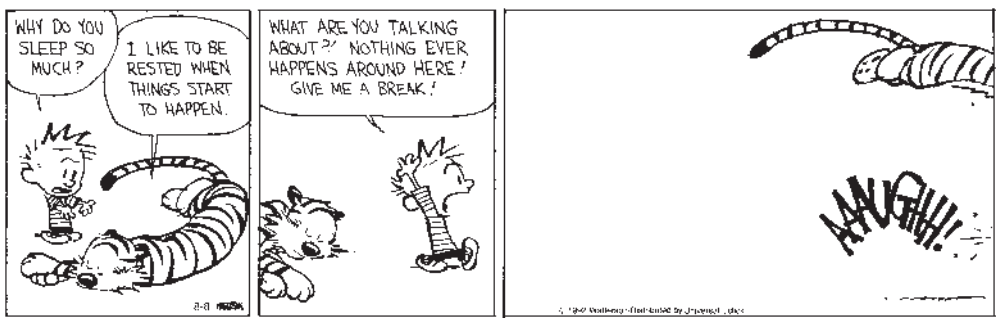
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

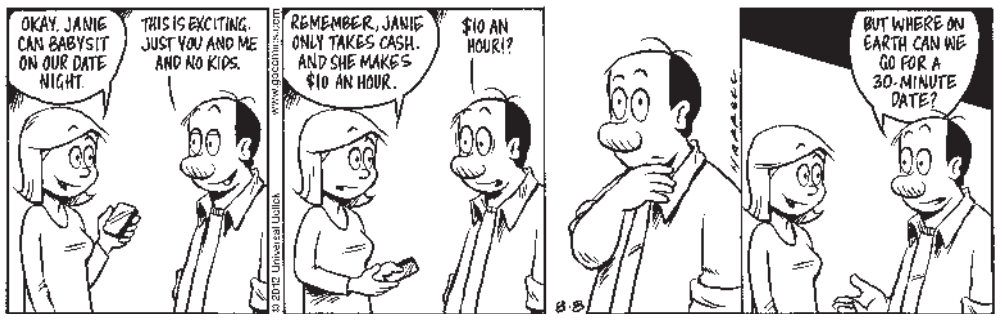

WHY DO YOU SLEEP SO MUCH?
I LIKE TO BE RESTED WHEN THINGS START TO HAPPEN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! NOTHING EVER HAPPENS AROUND HERE! GIVE ME A BREAK!
AAUGHH!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

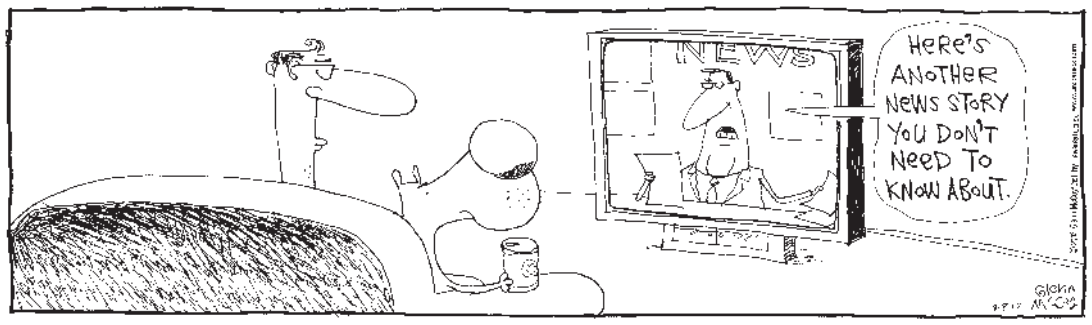
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. JANIE CAN BABYSIT ON OUR DATE NIGHT.
THIS IS EXCITING. JUST YOU AND ME AND NO KIDS.
REMEMBER, JANIE ONLY TAKES CASH. AND SHE MAKES $10 AN HOUR.
$10 AN HOUR!?
BUT WHERE ON EARTH CAN WE GO FOR A 30-MINUTE DATE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

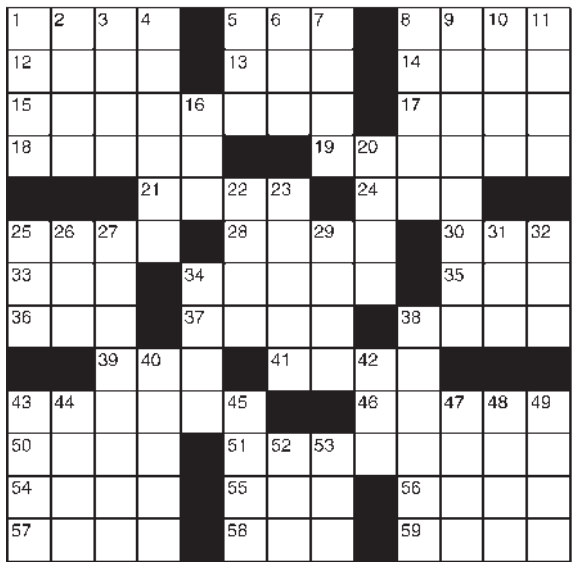
ACROSS
1 Gumbo need
5 Recede
8 "Take — Train"
12 Bar
13 Regret
14 Dinner for Dobbin
15 Braggart
17 Verifiable
18 Bristles
19 Sports venues
21 Village People hit
24 Under the weather
25 Founder of Apple
28 Clarinet's cousin
30 System of beliefs
33 Piercing tool
34 Families
35 Born
36 "The Matrix" role
37 Departed
38 Encounter
39 Personal question?
41 Agenda heading
43 Stations
46 Mountain air?
50 Valhalla VIP
51 Direct source of information
54 Use a paper towel
55 Guitar's kin
56 Declare
57 Require
58 Just out
59 Maintained

DOWN
1 Spheres
2 Hardy cabbage
3 Laugh-a-minute
4 Forever
5 Pitching stat
6 Prickly seedcase
7 Hotel furniture
8 Sum
9 Uncompromising
10 Seamstress' case
11 On the briny
16 Height of fashion?
20 Father's Day gifts
22 "Unforgettable" singer
23 At the stern
25 One of the Brady bunch
26 Have bills
27 Glassmaker's device
29 Aware of
31 Get a glimpse of
32 Citi Field player
34 Coagulate
38 Bread
40 Sharpened
42 Coloring agent
43 This way
44 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
45 Whirled
47 Jackknife, for one
48 Organic compound
49 Lascivious
52 Eisenhower
53 Church perch

Solution time: 21 mins.

N	O	R	M	■	S	A	C	■	G	O	S	H
O	B	E	Y	■	O	R	A	■	I	D	E	A
D	I	S	O	R	D	E	R	■	C	O	A	L
■	■	■	P	F	A	■	O	P	O	R	T	O
T	E	P	I	D	■	D	U	A	L	■	■	■
O	T	I	C	■	D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R
A	U	G	■	T	E	N	E	T	■	E	R	A
D	I	S	A	R	V	E	R	■	R	E	I	N
■	■	■	D	E	A	D	■	B	A	S	E	D
G	A	R	D	E	N	■	U	H	N	■	■	■
O	V	A	L	■	D	I	S	A	S	T	E	R
G	O	R	E	■	E	R	E	■	O	I	L	Y
O	W	E	D	■	D	A	D	■	M	E	M	E

Yesterday's answer 8-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roger Federer, 31; Joely Collins, 40; Keith Carradine, 63; Dustin Hoffman, 75.

Happy Birthday: Listen to what others want. Being helpful and showing sincerity will count in the end. Making changes to your lifestyle or living quarters will help reduce your stress and your overhead. Be receptive to all options and you will find a path that suits your needs. Open up and be forthright. Your numbers are 7, 11, 16, 20, 29, 33, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make every move count and you will get back all sorts of favorable input. A unique but diplomatic approach will show onlookers that you know what you're doing. Don't let a personal relationship stand in the way of an opportunity. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A connection from your past can lead to important changes in your financial future and the way you earn your living. Discuss your concerns with someone you trust to give you good feedback, but follow your gut feeling in the end. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): High expectations will put you on the spot and push you to do your best. Your competitive drive will help you outmaneuver anyone who challenges you. Present your ideas with confidence and you will get the support you need. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take a moment to go over what you are trying to accomplish. It's hard to make headway while trying to go against the current. Look for the path that will give you passage. Take charge and be confident. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotional issues will mount if you don't address weakness that can lead to failure. Accept the fact that changes might be required in order to reach your goals. Decisions must be made carefully, with everyone's input and concerns in mind. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Find out firsthand what's entailed before getting involved in a joint effort that may not have been thoroughly thought out. Excess will turn out badly. You are better off diversifying rather than putting all you've got into one idea. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Concentrate on friendship, travel and researching something or someone you want to pursue. Make changes that will clear the way for future endeavors. Don't put up with complaints or ultimatums that will stand between you and happiness. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A moneymaking idea will pay off with a little push. Something you left unfinished can play a role in the way you live in the future. Readdress the possibilities that exist and how you can turn a little into a lot. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Discuss money matters, deals, contracts and settlements and you will come up with a workable solution. Alterations to your home or lifestyle will help you get ahead. A service or skill you offer can be adapted to fit today's economic needs. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Talks will lead to greater complications. Get your priorities straight before you venture into a discussion that has the potential to leave you with greater financial responsibilities or burdens. Avoid unfamiliar people and places. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone you thought you could count on will let you down. Added responsibilities will develop. Take care of matters on your own and you will prove your capabilities and build greater confidence. Don't take an emotional or financial risk. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Follow your heart and turn your dreams into reality. Stick to basics and take baby steps until you reach your goals. Trust in what you know and do best, and say no to anyone offering the impossible. Be wise and win. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and strong-willed. You are creative and passionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	9	1			
		6				9		
		2				1		
	4	7	3	1	9	2	5	
	6						9	
	5			6			3	
	7			4			6	
	8						2	
		9	5	8	7	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	5	3	8	9	2	4	6
8	4	2	5	6	1	3	9	7
9	6	3	2	7	4	5	8	1
3	8	7	6	9	5	1	2	4
4	5	6	1	2	3	8	7	9
1	2	9	7	4	8	6	3	5
5	7	8	4	3	6	9	1	2
6	3	4	9	1	2	7	5	8
2	9	1	8	5	7	4	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BEING TIRED Solution: 9 letters

T	P	P	(E)	F	E	E	T	E	S	L	O	U	C	H
M	E	O	A	(Z)	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	O	E
E	O	I	O	R	(O)	E	M	I	T	D	E	B	N	A
E	N	O	D	P	E	(D)	E	T	I	R	E	D	K	V
T	N	I	D	E	E	N	R	N	A	P	S	D	O	I
S	P	T	E	E	N	D	T	W	E	A	K	E	U	N
L	O	O	E	F	T	I	D	O	E	N	O	Z	T	E
E	T	X	O	R	F	A	A	D	R	O	P	I	G	S
T	S	H	E	R	T	A	N	R	R	A	U	G	A	S
H	E	I	S	N	D	A	C	E	T	A	Y	R	S	T
A	R	E	C	N	E	L	I	S	V	S	I	E	P	S
R	O	W	O	R	K	R	N	N	W	U	R	N	L	E
G	N	I	D	A	E	R	G	O	I	T	J	E	E	D
Y	S	R	E	L	A	X	R	Y	S	N	E	E	V	D
H	A	G	G	A	R	D	E	E	P	P	G	R	R	O

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Bedtime, Caffeine, Conk Out, Dancing, Deep, Diet, Downtime, Doze, Drained, Droop, Drop, Drowsy, Energy, Entertaining, Exercise, Faint, Gasp, Haggard, Heaviness, Lethargy, Mood, Naps, Overstrained, Parent, Pooped, Reading, Re-energized, Rejuvenated, Relax, Silence, Sleep, Slouch, Snooze, Snore, Stop, Stress, Swimming, Timer, Tired, Weak, Work, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Pedicures

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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DFS

DFS SAIPAN LIMITED has a job opening for

Talent Management Manager

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The Talent Management Manager is responsible for ensuring compliance in all Talent Management (TM) areas including Local and Federal employment laws and regulations, including but not limited to workplace safety, Wage & Salary Administration, FMLA, ADA, and Fair Employment Practices. Ensure timely compliance in reporting Federal and Local and other statutory requirements. Implements company and TM policies and oversees TM activities such as employment, compensation, employee relations and communications, benefits, training and employee services for the Division.

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- Excellent written and verbal skills.
- Must maintain a high degree of confidentiality.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Able to work a flexible schedule.

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Monday to Friday between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Kanoa Resort

Saipan

P.O Box 500369 Saipan MP 96950
Tel # (670) 234-6601 Fax # (670) 234-8007

Position **(1)** **GUEST SERVICES AGENT**
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer service , preferably in hotel operations. Guest services agent is responsible for providing guests fast , friendly and efficient service. Must have knowledge in Microsoft Office Applications and Fidelio system. Must have outstanding ability to perform several tasks at once. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends , nights and holidays. Must have fluency in English and Chinese language.

Position **(4)** **WAITRESS**
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with minimum of 2 years work experience preferably in hotel operations. Good customer service , communications and interpersonal skills are required. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion , including early mornings , evenings and/ or weekends. Must have fluency in English and Chinese language.

Position **(1)** **SALES ASSOCIATE**
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience in cashiering and previous retail experience preferred. Able to perform duties with minimal supervision. Must be able to work irregular hours, such as shifts , holidays and weekends. Requires standing and frequent walking while on duty. Must have fluency in English and Chinese language.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered , applications must be submitted not later than August 09, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort, is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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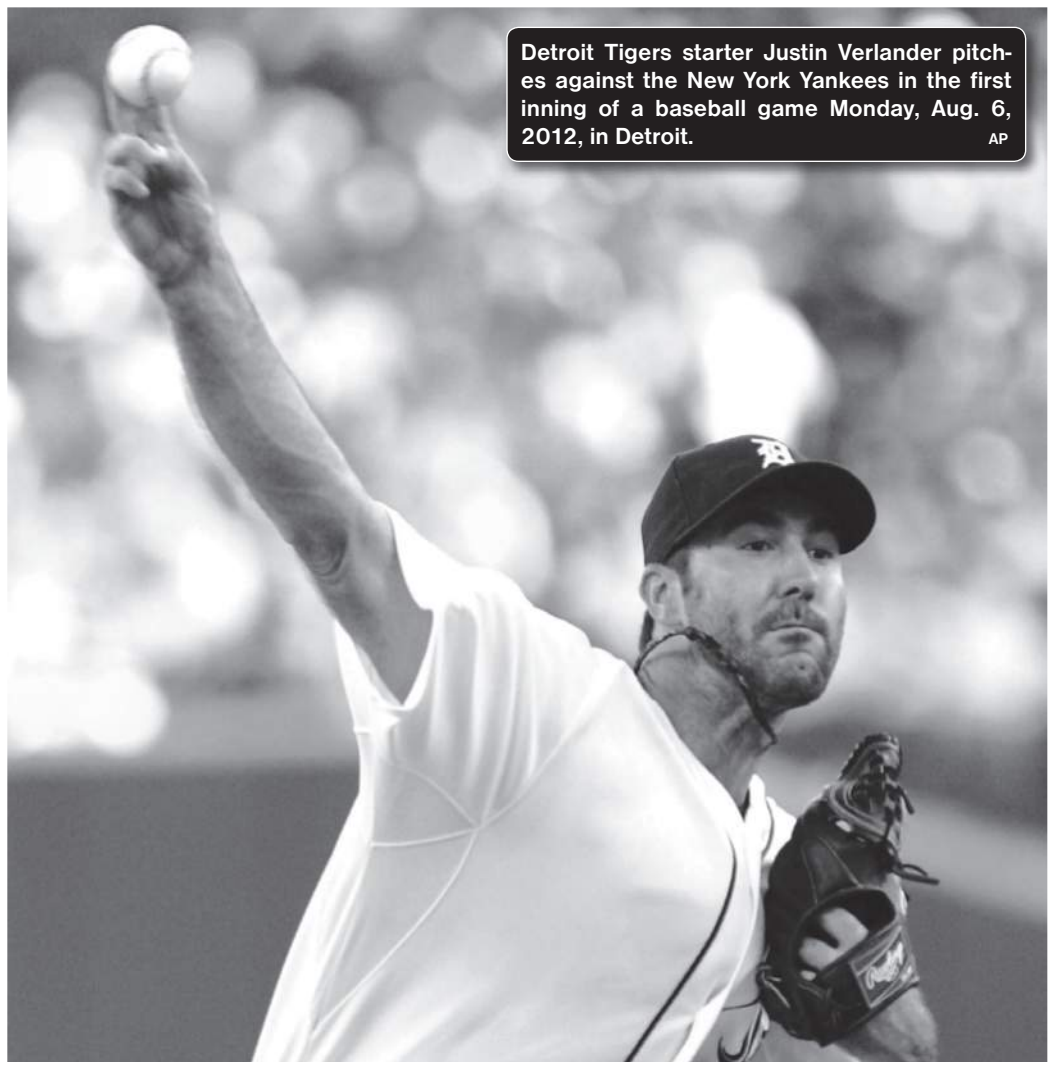
Verlander's 14 Ks lead Tigers over Yankees

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit's Justin Verlander matched a career high with 14 strikeouts, leading the Tigers to a 7-2 win over the New York Yankees in the American League on Monday.

Verlander (12-7) threw 132 pitches, his most in a regular-season game, and sent the Tigers to their fifth straight win.

He got home-run support from Prince Fielder and Miguel Cabrera.

Yankees starter Ivan Nova (10-6) was roughed up for 11 hits — matching a career high — in 5 1-3 innings.



Detroit Tigers starter Justin Verlander pitches against the New York Yankees in the first inning of a baseball game Monday, Aug. 6, 2012, in Detroit. AP

White Sox 4, Royals 2

In Chicago, Paul Konerko and Gordon Beckham homered late to lift Chicago over Kansas City.

Konerko tied it leading off the seventh and Beckham gave the White Sox a 3-2 lead with a solo shot in the eighth off Luis Mendoza (5-8).

Angels 4, Athletics 0

In Oakland, Jered Weaver pitched a shutout for his major league-leading 15th victory as Los Angeles beat Oakland to overtake the final spot in the crowded AL wild-card standings.

Weaver (15-1) struck out nine, walked none and faced the minimum through 4 1-3 innings.

Red Sox 9, Rangers 2

In Boston, Dustin Pedroia had three of Boston's eight doubles as the Red Sox beat Texas.

Boston increased its major league-leading doubles total to 248.

Red Sox starter AaronCook (3-5) regained control of his sinker after going 0-4 in his previous five starts.

Orioles 3, Mariners 1

In Baltimore, Chris Tillman steered Baltimore to a win, holding Seattle scoreless into the eighth inning.

Tillman (5-1) gave up one run, five hits and a walk in 7 1-3 innings.

Twins 14, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Justin Morneau homered twice and drove in four runs as Minnesota handed Cleveland its 10th straight loss.

Joe Mauer had three RBIs and Ryan Doumit hit a three-run homer for the Twins, who scored 10 runs in the second inning alone.

Cardinals 8, Giants 2

In St. Louis, St. Louis' Jake Westbrook pitched six solid innings as the Cardinals extended their strong recent home record by beating the San Francisco Giants 8-2 in the National League on Monday.

Westbrook (11-8) won his fourth decision in a row, mirroring his team's form.

Pirates 4, Diamondbacks 0

In Pittsburgh, Erik Bedard pitched seven scoreless innings to steer Pittsburgh past Arizona, opening a season-long sequence of 11 home games in winning style.

Bedard (6-12) did not walk a batter and faced just one over the minimum, striking out five. He retired 17 in a row until his final batter singled.

Brewers 6, Reds 3

In Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo pitched seven strong innings to guide Milwaukee to victory over Cincinnati.

Gallardo (10-8) gave up one run to equal his longest outing of the season and reach a double-digit win total for the fourth straight year.

Braves 6, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Ben Sheets pitched into the eighth inning as Atlanta defeated Philadelphia.

Sheets (4-1) had his longest outing since joining Atlanta's rotation on July 15 after missing all of last season due to elbow surgery. He allowed one run and one walk.

Jason Heyward homered for the Braves.

Rockies 2, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Adam Ottavino gave up one hit in three innings of relief, a single that was the result of a reversed call, and the Colorado Rockies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-0 Monday night.

Ottavino (3-1) took over in the fifth inning for a tiring Drew Pomeranz.

Padres 2, Cubs 0

In San Diego, Eric Stults and four relievers combined on a five-hitter, leading the San Diego Padres to a 2-0 win over the slumping Chicago Cubs on Monday night.

Stults (2-2) allowed five hits as he pitched 5 1-3 innings in his first start since June 3. He struck out five, walked two and had a wild pitch.

Yonder Alonso and Everth Cabrera each drove in a run and the Padres won for just the fourth time in 10 games.

Nationals 5, Astros 4

In Houston, Roger Bernadina scored when Houston made two errors on the same play in the 11th inning and the Washington Nationals picked up their third straight win, 5-4 over the Astros on Monday night.

Ryan Zimmerman had two hits and two RBIs, and Michael Morse added two hits for Washington.

Wilton Lopez (3-1) pitched a perfect 10th inning but Bernadina led off the 11th with a single.

NFL disputes report of Vilma settlement offer

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL calls a report it has offered a settlement and reduced suspension to Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma ''completely inaccurate.''

Vilma has been suspended for the 2012 season for his role in the Saints bounty program, which he adamantly has claimed did not exist. Citing anonymous sources, ESPN.com reported the league offered Vilma an eight-game suspension if he would drop his defamation lawsuit against NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

''No such settlement offer has been made,'' NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Monday. ''We will continue to respect the court proceedings on this matter and have no further comment at this time.''

A judge has ordered the league and Vilma's representatives to hold confidential settlement talks. A person familiar with those talks told The Associated Press he had ''not heard anything that concrete from anyone at the NFL'' regarding cutting Vilma's suspension to eight games.

The person, who spoke anonymously because the talks are private, added that he was aware of no offers from the league at all.

It is uncertain if Vilma would consider such a reduction in the suspension as he fights to have it overturned completely.

Vilma's teammates were pleased by the possibility of the linebacker playing this season.

''Even the thought of getting him back is exciting for us and I really hope that this thing works out in his favor, because we all have his back 100 percent. We support (him),'' safety Malcolm Jenkins said.

Peter Ginsberg, Vilma's attorney, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But he filed a motion in U.S. District Court in Louisiana on Monday on behalf of his client, seeking ''judicial attention'' to comments Goodell recently made.

The filing claims ''the NFL breached its CBA obligation to produce all evidence to be considered by the arbitrator in a 'conduct detrimental' proceeding; Goodell acted in an impermissibly biased manner; and, Goodell created and permitted a process tolerated neither by the CBA nor by federal law.''

According to the Louisiana filing, Goodell ''has revised the allegation'' against the Saints to engaging in a program that rewarded players for clean plays ''that did not involve designated specific opposing players for injury.''

Vilma is one of four players suspended in the bounty scandal. Teammate Will Smith, a defensive end, got four games, while DE Anthony Hargrove, now with Green Bay, was docked eight games. Linebacker Scott Fujita, now with Cleveland, was suspended for three games.

Saints coach Sean Payton, like Vilma, was suspended for the entire season.

Padres sale agreement in place, needs MLB *approval*

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A group headed by former Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley and including pro golfer Phil Mickelson reached agreement Monday to buy the San Diego Padres from John Moores.

The purchase price is believed to be around $800 million.

O'Malley is the son of Walter O'Malley, who bought the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1950 and moved them to Los Angeles before the 1958 season.

"An agreement has been confirmed but is not yet finalized. It has to be voted on," Padres senior vice president, public affairs Sarah Farnsworth said after San Diego beat the Chicago Cubs 2-0 Monday night.

Major League Baseball owners must approve the agreement. They are scheduled to meet later this month.

U-T San Diego first reported Monday night that a purchase agreement had been signed.

The purchase price apparently includes the $200 million in upfront money the Padres received from Fox Sports San Diego in a $1.2 billion, 30-year TV deal.

The agreement came months after Jeff Moorad's attempt to buy the team on a layaway plan fell apart. Moores' deal with Moorad, who began his attempted purchase of the club in 2009, was valued at about $500 million.

The price for this sale was inflated thanks to the deal with Fox and the recent sale of the Dodgers for $2 billion.

Moores' divorce forced him to put the team on the market in 2009.

Moores had owned 51 percent of the team while a minority group, once controlled by Moorad and then by local businessman Ron Fowler, owned 49 percent. Fowler is expected to join the O'Malley group.

Fans hope a change in owners can turn around the Padres, who regularly have had one of baseball's lowest payrolls and have largely struggled since reaching the 1998 World Series.

The Padres are 47-64 this season.

Moores, the owner since December 1994, slashed the player payroll both in 1999, while the club waited for voter-approved Petco Park to open, and again as he went through his divorce.

Moores has distanced himself from the team in recent years, first as he went through the divorce and as Moorad took over as CEO from 2009 until his sudden resignation in March. Many fans felt Moores showed an increasing disinterest in the club.

A big question is whether the O'Malley group has the operating capital to make the Padres competitive.

The new ownership group includes Peter O'Malley's two sons, Kevin and Brian, and nephews Peter and Tom Seidler. Two of the four are expected to move to San Diego.

Tom Seidler is president of the Class A Visalia Rawhide.

Mickelson, who's from San Diego, said in late May that being involved with the O'Malley group was a good investment opportunity and a chance to be involved in the community.

Mickelson is a four-time major champion who was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in May.

After presiding over what had been baseball's oldest family dynasty, Peter O'Malley sold the Dodgers to Rupert Murdoch's Fox Group in March 1998 for about $311 million - at the time the most ever paid for a U.S. sports franchise.

Walter O'Malley died in 1979.

Under the O'Malley ownership, the Dodgers won six World Series, 13 NL championships and finished first or second in their division 33 times in 48 years.

By comparison, the Padres have been to two World Series, losing in 1984 and 1998.

Moores' proposed sale of the team to Moorad, a former player agent, collapsed earlier this year after baseball owners refused to approve to proposed transfer of controlling interest.

US men stay unbeaten, rout Argentina

LONDON (AP)—Excused to leave the postgame news conference, Chris Paul said thank you, walked to the end of the dais, lost his balance and nearly fell.

He stayed on his feet. Disaster averted.

"Don't get hurt," American coach Mike Krzyzewski said, relieved to see his starting point guard was OK.

The Americans are fine, too.

They haven't had a major misstep in this tournament. They can't afford one now.

Not three wins from Olympic gold.

Draining five 3-pointers, one deeper than the next, Kevin Durant scored 17 points in the third quarter and finished with 28 as the U.S. men's team made a defense-be-damned statement before entering the medal round with a 126-97 win over pesky rival Argentina on Monday night.

Lebron James (6) of the United States goes to the hoop against Luis Scola (4) of Argentina during their men's preliminary round basketball match at the 2012 Summer Olympics on Monday, Aug. 6, 2012, in London.
AP

With their fourth blowout in five games, the Americans (5-0) moved into the quarterfinals, where they'll meet Australia (3-2) on Wednesday night and proclaimed that if anyone is to beat them in the days ahead they're going to have to outshoot these run-and-gunslingers from the U.S.

Two games after Carmelo Anthony's record-setting performance, it was Durant's turn to put on a show. Once Durant got hot, there was nothing Argentina could do.

"Anybody in their right mind, when he gets shooting the ball like that, there's only one thing to do: Get the ball to him," Paul said. "Luckily, we have a team that has the presence of mind to get it to him. He's unbelievable. We have to yell at him to shoot the ball and as you see, he usually makes it."

Leading by just one at halftime, the U.S. outscored Argentina (3-2) 42-17 in the third quarter, which began with LeBron James flexing his muscles inside. James scored seven quick points, forcing the Argentines to play defense a little closer to the basket. They moved and Durant made them pay.

He hit consecutive 3s to make it 85-66, sending center Tyson Chandler high-stepping from the U.S. bench toward the baseline and making Andre Iguodala belly flop to the floor. Moments later, Durant was at it again, hitting two more long-range shots in succession, the second one seemingly from Piccadilly Circus.

"Once I caught it and shot it, it just felt good," Durant said. "I was in rhythm. I really didn't pay attention to where the line was. When I caught that ball, I was going to shoot it. It was a great pass and I'm glad I made it."

The U.S. only had one tough game, beating Lithuania 99-94, a close call that seemed to awaken the Americans after routs of France, Tunisia and the historic, 156-point annihilation of Nigeria.

In pool play, there was a margin for error.

It's gone, and Durant said the Americans know they aren't invincible.

"We can be beat if we don't come out and play the way we're supposed to play," he said. "You've got to always turn it on, you can't just turn it on in the third quarter. We have to be focused and ready."

In the other quarterfinals, Russia, which lost for the first time in the tournament when Australia's Patty Mills made a 3-pointer as time expired, faces Lithuania. Spain plays France in a rematch of the Spaniards' victory in last year's European championship, and in another rematch from last summer, South American rivals Argentina and Brazil meet.

James added 18 points and Paul 17 for the Americans, who were fueled by Argentina's Facundo Campazzo hitting Carmelo Anthony in the groin as he hit a 3-pointer to end the third.

With Anthony buckled over on the floor, players on both benches pointed fingers and jawed at each other.

Campazzo acknowledged hitting Anthony on purpose, and said he did it because Paul had punched him earlier.

Following the game, Kobe Bryant confronted Campazzo.

"It was inappropriate," Bryant said. "I said, 'you don't do that' and he said, 'I know.' He knows he's wrong. That was uncalled for and I let him know. To his credit, he acknowledged it. He said, 'My fault, I know.' And that was it."

Maybe not.

Argentina and the U.S. could meet again in the semifinals. The two hooked up in the 2004 Athens Games with Argentina winning before the Americans atoned four years in Beijing.

"We find a way to play them every single year," Paul said. "It's a rivalry."

Bryant said the 29-point was the U.S. team's way of reminding the Argentineans they'll have to play much better - or settle for silver or bronze.

"You kind of want to send a message a little bit," said Bryant, who scored just 11 points. "This was the second game in a row that a team has played us close. We didn't want to give them confidence."

Manu Ginobili scored 16 points for Argentina (3-2), which would have won Group A via tiebreaker if it had blown out the U.S.

Little-noticed Olympic event: Haves vs. have-nots

LONDON (AP)—Over his remarkable career, Michael Phelps has struck sponsorship deals with Speedo, Subway, Under Armour athletic wear, Omega watches and Procter & Gamble.

But not everyone at the London Games can be showered with corporate largesse like the most decorated Olympian of all time. Most work one, two, even seven jobs while finding time to train to face fully funded pros.

In this battle of haves and have-nots at the London Games, the have-nots include a dentist and a disc jockey, a Buddhist monk and a one-time brothel owner.

Irish boxer Darren O'Neill quit his job teaching at Holy Trinity Primary School in Dublin to train full-time for the Olympics—and isn't sure he'll get the job back when he goes home.

He also had to give up hurling, a rough-and-tumble native Irish sport that combines elements of field hockey, rugby and soccer. It is dominant in his hometown, hurling-mad Kilkenny.

"I enjoyed the teaching as a release from boxing, too, and took a risk in leaving," he said. "It was a tough decision, same as leaving the hurling, but boxing gave me more personal satisfaction."

O'Neill lost last week in his second bout, to Stefan Hartel of Germany, but he'll go back to find a hand-painted banner on the school roof that says "GOOD LUCK MR. O'NEILL."

Lance Brooks, an American discus thrower, worked as a bouncer and bartender and what's known as a barbacker - restocking the cooler and taking out the trash - when he moved to Denver five years ago and started to train.

He also worked Colorado Rockies baseball games, coached at a local high school, worked at an oil-change service and did construction - all before his coach told him to cut out some of the jobs or lose his trainer.

Kai Jahnssan, a pistol shooter, serves in Finland's Coast Guard Air Flight Patrol as a helicopter rescue swimmer. Another marksman has a job more suited to his Olympic discipline: Italy's Luca Tesconi, who won the silver in 10-meter air pistol, is a police officer in Tuscany.

Mark Adams, a spokesman for the International Olympic Committee, said the IOC distributes more than 90 percent of its revenue from TV rights and sponsorship deals to national Olympic committees, in part to ease the burden on athletes.

The IOC has its own program, Solidarity, that provides training, equipment and travel money for particularly needy athletes.

"We have a responsibility to balance an elite games with sport for all," Adams said. "We try to make it as level a playing field as possible."

That is more possible when national Olympic committees and sport federations receive government money.

When they don't, or when there isn't enough money to go around, athletes have little choice but to go it alone - eking out a living and scrambling for sponsorship deals when they can get them.

That includes the United States. The U.S. Olympic Committee is a nonprofit that gets no help from the federal government.

Nick Symmonds, a four-time U.S. outdoor track champion in the 800-meter, auctioned a spot on his shoulder on eBay for $11,100 for a temporary tattoo with the name of the highest bidder.

Hanson Dodge Creative, a marketing firm that focuses on "active lifestyle" consumers, made the winning bid, but Symmonds had to cover the shoulder because of IOC rules preventing athletes from hawking their brands during the Olympics.

Wendy Houvenaghel is a dentist in Northern Ireland when she's not riding for Britain in track cycling's team pursuit. While she wasn't practicing dentistry in the run-up to London, she had to take continuing education courses to keep her license valid, and plans to pick up the profession full-time once the Olympics, and her cycling career, are over.

"It's something I feel is important, looking beyond the Olympic Games," she said.

It's also a profession that comes in handy when the team is on the road and teammates develop what she delicately calls "wisdom tooth situations."

Japanese equestrian rider Kenki Sato has one of the more unusual full-time jobs: He's a monk at his family's Buddhist temple near Nagano, the site of the 1998 Winter Games.

'The Bolt Show' moves on to 200m

LONDON (AP)—Get ready for more of The Bolt Show.

Usain Bolt dropped by Olympic Stadium for a brief visit Monday night and did things his way, as usual, jumping to the top step of the medal podium to collect his second consecutive gold for the 100 meters.

When the Jamaican sensation returns to the track on Tuesday, it will be for the first round of the 200 meters, an event he's planning to win, too, as part of his quest to become what he calls a "living legend."

As it is, Bolt and Carl Lewis are the only men to take home back-to-back golds in the 100.

No man ever has won two Olympic 200s.

After his victory Sunday in the shorter event in 9.63 seconds - the second-fastest time in history - Bolt was asked whether he's the best sprinter ever. His reply revealed a rare bit of modesty from an athlete who tends to showboat aplenty, then backs it up when it's race time.

"I can't say that. I think I have to wait until the 200 meters, and then my fans got to say, 'Yes, he is,' and the media's got to say, 'Yes he is.' I'm never going to say I'm the greatest until after my 200 meters."

That's his favorite race, the one in which he holds the world record of 19.19, set at the 2009 world championships. The 200 semifinals are Wednesday, and the final is Thursday night.

Once again, Bolt will likely face a tough challenge from his Jamaican teammate and training partner, Yohan Blake, who took the silver in the 100 on Saturday. Blake beat Bolt in both sprints at their national Olympic trials.

"I've told Yohan Blake that 200 meters will be different, because that's my signature event. I'm not going to let him beat me again. I've said that to him already," Bolt said. "Remember I said that, Yohan."

The 200 qualifying heats close out the morning session Tuesday. Other events on the schedule include the 110-meter hurdles featuring defending champion Dayron Robles of Cuba and 2004 gold medalist Liu Xiang of China, who pulled out of his preliminary round at home four years ago; and qualifying in the women's 5,000 meters, women's javelin and the men's triple jump.

At night, the women will run their 200-meter semifinals, and medals will be awarded for the

CNMI

From Page 28

were also unscathed in Day 2 of the girls U12 division.

Ackerman improved to a 3-0 record after a 6-0, 6-2 win over the Solomon Islands' s Vinda Teally. She shares the lead with Samoa's Anastasia Tapusoa (3-0) and they are likely to take the two semis tickets in the five-player Pool B.

Likely to join Ackerman in the semis are Pool A co-leaders Lopez and Rastguiy, who held similar 3-0 records after yesterday's matches. Lopez and Rastguiy both shut out their foes in Day 2 with the former blanking Georgimah Row and the latter whipping Charity Sagiao. Rastguiy and Lopez squares off for the top spot in Pool A today.

In the girls U12, Heras is a win away from sweeping the six-player Pool A after notching two more wins yesterday. She got her third win over the Federated States of Micronesia's Sunshein Palik, 6-1, 6-2, and then completed the Day 2 sweep with a 6-1, 6-2 triumph over Jeezabel Cristofari. Heras battles the top-seeded Ruby Coffin today for the No. 1 spot in Pool A.

In Pool B, Carol Lee also went 4-0 after yesterday's matches and is likely to join Heras in the semis. Lee's two wins were via straight sets, as she beat Michelle Miller in the morning game, 6-0, 6-2, and downed Skylawn Palelei in the afternoon match, 6-0, 6-1.

In the boys U18 singles, Rafael Jones split his two games in Day 2 for a 3-1 record and remained in contention for two semis berths in Pool A. Jones defeated Guam's Christian Penafiel, 6-2, 7-5, before losing to Vanuatu and top seed Gregory Jacobe, 1-6, 2-6.

Christian Miller is the CNMI's other bet in the boys U18 and he is still in the semis race in Pool B after posting a 2-1 record. After a split in Day 1, Miller nailed his second win yesterday after surviving Tito Tebatibunga, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

In the girls U18, Thea Minor dropped to a 0-4 record and is out of the running for the semis tickets after absorbing two more losses yesterday. Minor, who suffered from cramps, fell to Marcia Tere-Apisah, 1-6, 0-6, and Tarani Kamoe, 2-6, 1-6.

Also out of the semis race in the boys U15 division was Chris Cajigan, who dropped to a 1-4 record in Pool B. After going 0-2 in Day 1, Cajigan had a split yesterday, winning over Carlos Ah Ching, 6-1, 6-1, before losing to Kevin Maukolao, 2-6, 5-7.

MENDIOLA

From Page 28

men's 8,000-meter event and had the same time. There may be a discrepancy in the online results, as he was listed last in the field of 38; the men's open 12K results were not listed on the website.

Notably, the 19A men's 8000m winner finished in just over 26 minutes, so it was likely that Mendiola's time did after all include an extra 4000m.

"I know what event I ran in and I am very happy with my first off-island performance," said Mendiola in an interview yesterday.

"I was a little nervous coming into the competition, but actually the scariest part of the trip was simply traveling alone because I have never been there before. Luckily, I was with my friend Chris Magtoto of Guam, but everything was still very unfamiliar and I was nervous because I didn't want to get lost. I was only there for the weekend and wish I have had more time for some sightseeing, but all in all it was a great experience," he added.

The 18-year-old Mendiola took the opportunity on only a two-week notice.

He found his talent in competitive running after being introduced to the sport just two years ago. He won the U19 division of last year's Saipan Marathon and was hoping to join team CNMI in the Oceania Championships, but his passport expired just days before the cutoff date.

The Saipan-born athlete attended a couple of semesters at Eisenhower High School in Houston, Texas where he participated in a 5K and 10K runs for its cross-country team before returning home where he recently earned his diploma at Marianas High School. During his stint stateside he also played on the Eisenhower football team, which advanced to the state finals that same season.

He is considering suiting up for the Commonwealth Football League's team that will be appearing in a three-game series against some squads from the Philippines and Guam this winter.

Mendiola also studies mixed martial arts under Trench Tech Purebred's Cuki Alvarez, who sponsored the young runner's trip to New Zealand.

The four-year MMA practitioner plans on competing in Trench Tech's Art Of War 7 No-Gi Grappling & Submissions Challenge this Saturday and wants to make his MMA debut in one of Trench Warz or Rites Of Passage events this year as well.

Mendiola also enjoys mountain biking and would like to try competing in triathlon some time in the future.

After the Art of War, the busy beaver will also be joining in a mountain bike race this Sunday.

US WOMEN

From Page 28

alty kick shootout, Alex Morgan looped in a 6-yard header on a long cross from Heather O'Reilly, giving the U.S. a 4-3 win over Canada in the Olympic semifinals at Old Trafford.

"I don't have much to say because I need to wrap my head around what just happened," Solo said. "And that's the truth of the matter. We tend to keep things interesting."

Next comes the game the U.S. players have been eyeing for more than a year, a rematch with Japan on Thursday at Wembley Stadium with gold on the line. The top-ranked Americans lost to Japan on penalty kicks in the World Cup final last summer, a stunning blow that became a source of motivation as the players prepared for the London Olympics.

"This is redemption for us," midfielder Carli Lloyd said. "We know how hard it was for us after that game. It hurt us for a really long time."

The Americans overcame three one-goal deficits, all due to Christine Sinclair goals in the 22nd, 67th and 73rd minutes. Megan Rapinoe scored in the 54th and 70th minutes, and Wambach in the 80th for the U.S., leaving Sinclair and Wambach tied at No. 2 with 143 international goals apiece, both chasing Mia Hamm's world record of 158.

It was the sequence that led to Wambach's tying goal that left the Canadians fuming. It started when goalkeeper Erin McLeod was whistled for holding the ball more than six seconds, a call even U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said she had never seen before.

That gave the Americans an indirect free kick inside the area. Rapinoe took the kick and rammed it into the Canadian wall, the ball glancing off the arm of Marie-Eve Nault. Referee Christiana Pedersen of Norway then awarded the U.S. a penalty kick, which Wambach converted off the left post.

McLeod said she did not receive the usual warning from the referee about holding the ball too long, although she said the linesman had told her at the start of the second half not to slow down play.

"I think the referee was very one-sided," McLeod said. "It was an interesting sequence of events. I think we outplayed the Americans the entire game. I think it's unfortunate the calls went the way that they did. Of course, the Americans are a great soccer team, and today we were better, and the luck went their way."

Canada coach John Herdman said he felt the referee also missed a hand ball in front of the U.S. goal.

"The ref, she will have to sleep in bed tonight after watching the replays," Herdman said. "She's gonna have to live with that. We will move on from this. I wonder if she will be able to."

Canada, seeking the country's first Summer Games medal in a traditional team sport since 1936, will play France for the bronze on Thursday at Coventry.

The U.S. team has played in the title match in every Summer Games since women's soccer was introduced in Atlanta in 1996, winning the gold in 1996, 2004 and 2008, and the silver in 2000.

But in many ways this win was reminiscent of the landmark comeback victory against Brazil in last year's World Cup, when Wambach willed the team to a shootout win in the quarterfinals.

With that kind of history, she knew her teammates could rally against the Canadians.

"Even when they scored their third goal, there was something in me that knew that we had more, that we could give more," Wambach said.

The result maintains the Americans' dominance of their neighbor to the north, extending their unbeaten streak against Canada to 27 games (23-0-4). The U.S. leads the series 44-3-5, the last loss coming at the Algarve Cup in 2001.

Herdman said before the game that the run of futility against the Americans was on the minds of his players, and he addressed it with them in the run-up to the match. He also injected some pregame intrigue by accusing the Americans of using "highly illegal," overly physical tactics on free kicks and corner kicks.

"Their coach prepared them very well," Wambach said. "He had a very good tactic yesterday, by making it a media (event) to say that we do illegal stuff. I give him credit for that because it's something that he was trying to do to rally his team around him."

Certainly, Herdman's team gave one of its most spirited efforts on the biggest stage ever for a game between the rivals, scoring the most goals the U.S. has allowed since a 5-4 win over Australia in May 2008.

The Americans dominated possession in the early minutes, but then the U.S. defense did the unexplainable—it lost track of one of the best scorers in the game.

Taking a pass from Melissa Tancredi, Sinclair slalomed through the penalty area to beat Solo with a simple right-footer from 10 yards.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	31	19	14	64
2	United States	29	15	19	63
3	Russia	7	17	18	42
4	Great Britain	18	11	11	40
5	Japan	2	12	14	28
6	France	8	9	9	26
7	South Korea	11	5	6	22
8	Germany	5	10	7	22
9	Australia	2	12	8	22
10	Italy	7	6	4	17
11	Netherlands	3	3	4	10
12	Canada	1	3	6	10
13	Ukraine	3	0	6	9
14	Hungary	4	1	3	8
15	Belarus	3	2	3	8
16	New Zealand	3	1	4	8
17	Denmark	2	4	2	8
17	Romania	2	4	2	8
19	Brazil	2	1	5	8
20	Kazakhstan	6	0	1	7
21	Cuba	3	3	1	7
22	Poland	2	1	3	6
23	Sweden	1	3	2	6
24	North Korea	4	0	1	5
25	Czech Republic	1	3	1	5
26	Kenya	1	2	2	5
27	Mexico	0	3	2	5
28	South Africa	3	1	0	4
29	Iran	2	1	1	4
29	Jamaica	2	1	1	4
31	Ethiopia	2	0	2	4
32	Slovenia	1	1	2	4
33	Colombia	0	3	1	4
34	Slovakia	0	1	3	4
35	Croatia	2	1	0	3
36	Spain	0	2	1	3
37	Azerbaijan	0	1	2	3
37	Belgium	0	1	2	3
37	India	0	1	2	3
40	Dominican Republic	1	1	0	2
40	Georgia	1	1	0	2
40	Switzerland	1	1	0	2
43	Lithuania	1	0	1	2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KFC/TACO

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the team to score in double figures with 12.

KFC/Taco Bell held Hip Hop to 9 points in the opening quarter to take early control of the game and hung in there with Fernando, Dela Rosa, and Deleon Guerrero taking turns in making rally-halting baskets to foil Hip Hop's repeated comeback bids.

Fernando had his best game in the third, nailing 10 of his total output to keep KFC in the driver's seat, 54-48. The defending champion led by as much as 13 in the second period with Dela Rosa contributing 6 markers before Hip Hop made a mini run to move within nine at the break, 24-33.

Hip Hop behind Rolly Paraiso's baskets kept coming back in the second half, but could not overhaul the lead, as Deleon Guerrero stepped up in the fourth quarter, drilling 7 markers in the homestretch.

Hip Hop went on to absorb its second loss in as many games. It fell to San Antonio last Saturday, 65-70.

LD Prime 85, QQ 71

In the curtain raiser, LD Prime won its debut game after crushing QQ Rent A Car.

The match was a close one after three quarters before LD Prime turned on the heat in the fourth quarter, outgunning QQ, 22-10, en route to the 14-point win.

LD Prime was ahead by only two at the end of the third period, 63-61, when it held QQ to three field goals in the fourth canto for the easy win. No QQ player scored more than three points in the fourth-quarter collapse and the team fell to a 0-2 record.

Sonny Lerio outscored the entire QQ crew in the fourth canto, 12-10, and the LD Prime gunner finished the match with a game-high 28 points. White Capalad added 23.

First Game

LD Prime 85 – Lerio 28, Capalad 23, Magtuloy 13, Banatasa 7, Hernaez 5, Quemado 3.

QQ Rent A Car 71 – Sison 14, Mangadem 12, Concepcion 12, Acosta 8, Lansang 7, Bondoc 4, Saplan 4, Montes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-22, 45-39, 63-61, 85-71.

Second Game

KFC/Taco Bell 74 – Fernando 20, Dela Rosa 13, J. Deleon Guerrero 12, Ninja 9, Francisco 8, Maranan 6, Factor 6.

Hip Hop 66 – Paraiso 18, N. Mateo 15, Sacramento 9, Norita 7, Vertudez 6, Devero 5, D. Mateo 2, Cortez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 33-24, 54-48, 74-66.

WILD BILL'S

From Page 27

this week.

BOYS U18
Thundercats 8, IT&E 2

The Thundercats made it three in a row after downing IT&E.

The Thundercats improved to a 5-0-3 record to keep the No. 2 spot behind the undefeated and likely boys U18 champion Astig Futsal (6-0-0).

Makani Gramlich paced the Thundercats with his hat-trick, while Timothy Tawanpiy and Zhi Peng Lin chipped in two each. Raphael Zapanta contributed one goal.

John Taisacan and Sung Bae Park had one goal apiece in IT&E's third loss in six games.

SATURDAY GAMES
IT&E Awesome 7, Xerox 3

In the lone women's game last Saturday, IT&E Awesome notched back-to-back wins after stunning the third-running Xerox.

Michelle Masga had a hat-trick for IT&E, which now has a 3-1-5 card with only one game left in the double-round robin league. Mikky Vargas added two goals, while Clarice Mendoza and Jeralyn Castillo had one each for the streaking IT&E.

Astig Futsal 18, Mean Machine 3

Astig Futsal kept its perfect slate in the boys U18 division after routing Mean Machine.

Unsa led Astig's thrashing of Mean Machine (0-0-8), scoring five goals. Konkoed contributed four, Marc Mora made three, and Kenneth Domingo drilled two. Astig also drew one goal apiece from Billy Hinson, Woo Seon Choi, and Jeff Palacios.

Angelo Guevarra drained Mean Machine's two goals, while the other one came from Dale Ballesteros.

IT&E 9, Astig Futsal 1

In the early match last weekend, IT&E whipped Astig Futsal in their boys U14 duel.

It was IT&E's third win against Astig (1-2-3) after drawing their first two matches. Dakota Hall had four goals in the easy win, while Taisacan scored three. Greg Sablan and Julien Pellegrino posted one goal each.

Palacios and Evan Belcher gave Astig one goal apiece.

Wild Bill's secures men's futsal league crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wild Bill's clinched the men's championship in the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League after defeating Godfather's, 11-5, last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Wild Bill's remains unbeaten in seven games and with only one game left and Godfather's dropping to a 6-0-2 win-draw-loss card, there is no way that the former can be removed from the top spot in the five-team field.

Godfather's drew first blood in the title-deciding match off Ropati Tonuu's goal in the second minute of the opening half. However, Wild Bill's quickly answered with Tanapon Unsa hitting a cross from the right sideline. Unsa added one more goal, while Lar Wonpariya also had a pair and Jack Thoensaket chipped in one in the final half of the first frame to lift Wild Bill's to a 5-3 halftime lead.

Wild Bill's Jack Thoensaket kicks the ball against two Godfather's defenders during their game in the men's division of the SSS futsal league last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Godfather's two other goals in the first half all came from Tonuu and the team had limited options on offense early, as Otsuka Masatoshi got injured and Chris Nelson and Steve McKagan were tightly guarded.

Nelson and McKagan continued to struggle in the second half, while the Thoensaket-Unsa combo nailed two goals apiece to duplicate Kai Khamka's production and power Wild Bill's to the title win.

Tonuu had another goal for Godfather's in the second half, while Masatoshi finally made it to the scoreboard in the last 25 minutes of play.

WOMEN'S
Wild Bill's 7, Mellow Yellow 0

Wild Bill's boosted its chances for the women's crown after shutting out Mellow Yellow.

Wild Bill's now has a 6-2-1 slate for solo first place in the six-team field, one win ahead of Shirley's Coffee Shop (5-2-1) and Xerox (5-1-3).

Sara Allen anchored Wild Bill's demolition of Mellow Yellow, firing five goals. Windy Orcine and Korapin Sareebutr logged one each in the lopsided win.

Mellow Yellow fell to a 0-1-8 record and has one more chance to break into the win column

See WILD BILL'S on Page 26

NMBA brings home 3 championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association participated in the GNBF Summer Friendship Tournament in Guam over the weekend and went home with three championships.

Handing NMBA victories in the Guam National Badminton Federation-organized tournament held at the St. Paul Christian School in Yigo were Chris Hilario, Oh Im Bog, Chris Obaldo, and Toshiko Obata

Hilaro and Oh were entered in the Level 2 men's doubles and survived Guam's John Conducto and Cloyd Rosas in a three-game finale. The NMBA pair dropped the opening game, 16-21, but swept the last two, 21-15, 11-9, to steal the championship.

Obaldo and Obata also played in Level 2 and defeated fellow NMBA bets Gigi Zapanta and Christy Villaflor in the women's doubles finals, 21-13, 21-19.

Then in the mixed doubles Level 2, Obata teamed up with Oh and the duo prevailed against fellow NMBA players Hilario and Obaldo and Luis Camacho and Merlie Tolentino.

NMBA had 17 delegates to the weekend tournament and 14 of them joined the Level 2 and 3 singles and doubles competitions, which also featured players from the Philippines. The PH contingent had six players and four officials, while host Guam fielded more than 20 players in the two-day event.

It was the first time that GNBF had a three-nation tournament and the host aims to hold the event annually.

Meanwhile, NMBA would like to thank GNBF and organizers of the weekend competition for inviting Saipan players. NMBA also donated shuttlecocks and presented a plaque of appreciation to the host.

"We received many positive comments from Guam badminton and they greatly appreciate the effort, involvement, and dedication we gave to this event. GNBF is looking forward to playing with us again next year," NMBA said in a press statement.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Badminton Association players and officials pose for a group photo during the opening ceremony of the GNBF Summer Friendship Tournament held over the weekend in Yigo, Guam.

Fiesta beach soccer tourney pushed back to Sept. 1

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Fiesta Resort & Spa 3rd Annual Beach Soccer Tournament that was originally set this weekend has been moved to Sept. 1

Interested participants can still register early, however the event has been pushed back to next month to give way to the grand opening of Fiesta's new beach bar.

Entrance fee remains at $10 per player and at least five players are required on each team.

This is an open event, however players under the age of 14 are required to have permission from a parent. Parents of youth players are required to be present during registration.

Entrance fee includes tickets for food and beverages to be used during the competition; water will be provided for players, while other food and drink items will also be available for sale.

The games will be played in a 5-on-5 format.

A raffle drawing will also take place during the event with special prizes provided by major sponsors Pacific Trading Company, Tan Siu Foundation, Docomo Pacific, Rota Water, and Kanoa Resort.

The champion team will receive $300 cash and a set of individual trophies. The runner-ups will get $200 and the third place team will take home $100. Second and third placers will also receive team trophies and other awards.

Form more information, contact Fiesta's Christy Villaflor at 234-7171 ext. 1508.

Leina Kim scores 3-peat at TOC

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Ladies Low Gross winner Leina Kim, center at right picture, and Enoch Lim, center at left picture, receive their prize packages during the awards ceremony for the 17th Annual Tournament of Champions last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Former CNMI junior golfer Leina Kim notched her third straight Ladies Flight win in last weekend's 17th Annual Tournament of Champions at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Kim carded a two-day total of 1-over par 145 to extend her winning run in the Ladies Flight and easily beat 2009 champion Yun Jeong Kim (157). Former Ladies champion Yuko Togawa rounded out the Top 3 with her 158 (78 and 80).

The 20-year-old Leina Kim took a six-stroke lead over Yun Jeong Kim after the opening round, following the former's 1-over par 73 last Saturday. Leina Kim played better in the final round last Sunday, shooting an even par 72 for a 12-stroke win over Yun Jeong Kim, who tallied a 7-over par 79 in the opening round before improving her game a bit in the last round with her 6-over par 78.

Leina Kim's 145 was the best score in the tournament, tying the 145 of five-time Championship Flight winner Louie Sunga of Guam. Leina Kim's 145 in last Sunday's event was also six shots behind her 2011 winning score (139) and four stroke ahead of her score in 2010 (149).

Meanwhile, Emiri Sunga took the Ladies Low net top honors with her two-day total of 146. She beat Young Hee Yoo (147) and Ming Quan (148.6).

In other results, Enoch S. Lim topped the 18-player A Flight with a two-round gross of 154.

Lim actually won first place via the scorecard sudden death over Jae Yeol Jeoung (154), while Suk Eui Ko (160) rounded out the third spot. Tom McKenzie (164) and Lawrence T. Camacho (167) completed the Top 5.

Bong Chun Woo beat 40 other B Flight golfers with his 159. He defeated Jong Ho Lee by only two strokes, while Kenjo Suzuki (164), Azarcon Presciliano (166) and Takao Urasawa (168) rounded out the Top 5 winners.

The C Flight drew the most participants with 63 and it was Franco M. Santos who enjoyed bragging rights over the mob. Santos turned in an impressive 162 over the weekend to graduate into the B Flight next year.

He finished four strokes ahead of runner-up Koji Takeda (168), while Freddy Salavaria (171) edged Ben Jones Jr. (171) for third place after a sudden death scorecard adjustment, and Kazumi Matsumoto (181) settled for fifth place.

Senior Flight's Barry Wilson triumphed over a field of 20 with his 153. He fronted the pack by three strokes, finishing ahead of Frederico P. Flores (156), Toshiyuki Mori (158), Victorino F. Borja (159), and Edward Manibusan (160), who took fifth place via scorecard sudden death win over Rick Kautz.

Steve Balakrishna won the Super Seniors Flight that had 23 golfers. He had a two-round total of 161, two strokes ahead of runner-up Nick Sablan (163). In Koo Lee (164), Dae Young Yoon (168) and Frank Castro (169) completed the Top 5.

The The Top 3 finishers in the various flights (excluding ladies low net) received cash prizes with the champion getting $500, $400 to the runner-up, and $300 to the third placer. Digital cameras and $100 DFS gift cards were given to the fourth and fifth finishers, respectively.

TSL SPORTS COMPLEX
Activity Schedule for August 8, 2012
2012 Summer Soccer Camp
8:00 AM to 9:30 AM: U10 • 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM: U8
2012 Summer Futsal League
5:30 PM: U14 Boy's Division IT&E vs. Astig
6:30 PM: U18 Boy's Division Astig vs. Thundercats
7:30 PM: Men Shirley's vs. Go Green Team
8:30 PM: Women Wild Bill's vs. Shirley's
SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI players boost semis bid in Fiji

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Isabel Heras, seen here competing in a local tournament early this year, is unbeaten in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five CNMI players kept their perfect records intact after Day 2 of the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji to strengthen their semis chances in the girls U12 and U15 singles.

In the girls U15 singles, Tammy Ackerman, Mikayla Lopez, and Negahr Rastguiy remained unbeaten after yesterday's games at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka and the Nadi Sports Club in Nadi, while Carol Lee and Isabel Heras

See CNMI on Page 26

US women top Canada, Japan next for Olympic gold

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—On the verge of missing the gold-medal game for the first time, the U.S. women's soccer team caught a break when the referee made a call rarely seen in the sport.

Then the Americans put together a final winning surge, inspired by the familiar - a pep talk from co-captain Abby Wambach.

"I know I've said this before," she said she told her teammates during extra time. "But it really does just take one moment and one chance, one moment of brilliance for somebody to do something individually spectacular."

The moment came beyond the 90 minutes of regular time, beyond the scheduled 30 minutes of extra time. In the third and final minute of injury time, with goalkeeper Hope Solo already preparing for a pen-

See US WOMEN on Page 26

AP
Canada's Diana Matheson, left, and United States' Megan Rapinoe, right, compete for the ball during the women's soccer semis match between the USA and Canada in the 2012 Summer Olympics, Monday, Aug. 6, 2012, at Old Trafford in Manchester, England.

Mendiola completes cross-country race in NZ

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Donivan Mendiola represented the CNMI in the Athletics New Zealand and Oceania Cross-Country Championships held last Saturday at the Minogue Park in Te Rapa, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Northern Marianas Athletics nominated Mendiola for the men's 12K event. He earned a fourth place finish over a field of over 50 runners after timing in at 43:19. However, according to the Athletics New Zealand website, he was listed in the 19A

See MENDIOLA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Donivan Mendiola, center, waits at the starting line during last Saturday's Athletics New Zealand and Oceania Cross Country Championships held in Hamilton, New Zealand.

KFC/Taco Bell recovers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion KFC/Taco Bell got a big lift from two of its new recruits to pull off a 74-66 win over Hip Hop and recover from its debut loss in the DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

KFC/Taco Bell, which bowed to Brgy. San Antonio in the league opener on July 28, 65-73, drew about half of their total production from Angelo Fernando and Erick Dela Rosa, who are among the new players on the defending champion's roster in the second edition of the DLX caging.

Fernando fired a game-high 20 points, while Dela Rosa added 13. KFC mainstay JR Deleon Guerrero was the third player on

See KFC/TACO on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
KFC/Taco Bell's Ralph Francisco drives against Hip Hop defenders during their game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.